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John Murray Jr.

T H E
ORIGINAL AND PRESENT
STATE OF MAN,
BRIEFLY CONSIDERED:

WHEREIN IS SHEWN,

Sam. L. Milnes

The Nature of his FALL, and the Necessity, Means and
Manner of his RESTORATION, through the Sacrifice
of CHRIST, and the sensible Operation of that
DIVINE PRINCIPLE of GRACE and TRUTH,
held forth to the World,

BY THE
PEOPLE CALLED QUAKERS.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED,

Some REMARKS on the ARGUMENTS of
SAMUEL NEWTON, of NORWICH.

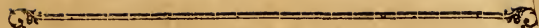
BY JOSEPH PHIPPS.

We both labour, and suffer Reproach, because we trust in the living
GOD, who is the Saviour of all Men, 'specially of those that believe.
1 Tim. iv. 10.

T R E N T O N:
PRINTED BY ISAAC COLLINS.

M.DCC.XCIII.





T H E

P R E F A C E.

MY chief Inducement to publish a few Observations upon S. Newton's Letter in the Year 1767, was the Defence of that divine Principle vouchsafed by a gracious Creator, through a beneficent Redeemer to all Mankind, in order to their Instruction, Help and Salvation. Its Operation and Extent appeared to me to be misunderstood, and mistakenly represented in that Discourse; and finding it equally so in a late † Reply of the same Author, I think myself in some Degree obliged to appear a second Time, still further to shew, according to my Understanding, the Necessity, Universality and real Sensibility of the Work of God's Holy Spirit upon the immortal Soul of Man, as the vital Source, and Support of true Religion in him; and therefore the primary Guide of his Life and Conduct.*

My Intention is not mere Controversy, but Explanation and Doctrine. I have therefore taken the Liberty to use divers Expressions from the Apocrypha, and other writings, where their Pertinence and Clearness entitled them to a Place.
I take

* Letter to the Author of a Letter to Dr. Formey, &c. signed, No Matter who.

† The leading Sentiments of the People called Quakers examined, &c. by S. Newton, of Norwich.

THE PREFACE.

I take little Notice of the numerous declamatory Parts of my Opposer's Performance. It concerns not the ingenuous Reader, who can be most keen or most petulant, but on which Side of the Question the Truth lies, and by which Doctrine his Mind is most likely to be best and most profitably informed. This he may better judge for himself, than others for him; for be they ever so ingenious, or otherwise learned, they cannot be competent Judges in Things they have not experienced, and which are not to be known but by Experience.

I have no Animosity towards my Antagonist; but his Work appears to me founded in Mistakes, both concerning the Sense of Scripture, and the Intention of our Writings. To proceed minutely to unravel and clear, what he has been at so much Pains to perplex and confuse, would be more tedious than difficult, and could by no Means compensate either for the Reader's Time or my own. My first Endeavour therefore shall be, to shew the Verity of our true leading Principles, from the original, and present State of Mankind, with the Assistance requisite thereunto, and afterwards to add some Remarks upon divers Parts of the Treatise before me.

T H E

ORIGINAL AND PRESENT

STATE OF MAN, &c.

C H A P. I.

1. *Man was originally created in Purity, and in a State of due Order and Rectitude. 2. He was inspired with a Sense of his Duty; and 3 and 4, empowered to perform it. 5. Being tempted, he lapsed from his proper Guard, the preserving Power of God, into Sin. 6. He fell from the Image of the Heavenly, into the Image of the Earthly. How unlawful Self rose in him. 7. That he really suffered Death in Spirit, in the Day of his Transgression. What the Life and Death of the Soul are.*

1. **I**N the Beginning God created all Things good. Inherently and immutably good himself, every Production of his must necessarily be so, according to the several Kinds wherein he created them. As Man was wholly made by him, he must have been made wholly good; his Nature clear of all Impurity, and free from all Defect and Disorder. His Faculties

ties were not imperfect, but limited to their proper Sphere, and every Part of his Composition constituted in its due Rectitude; the Body placed in Subservience to his rational Spirit, or Soul, as to the more noble and excellent, and therefore the superior Part, made for Immortality, and in Subjection only to the Guidance of its Creator.

2. The human Faculties, or Powers of Capacity, must then be clear, unprejudiced, and fit to receive Impressions, yet void of any but those of immediate Sense. Man, merely as Man, could not originally bring any real Knowledge into the World with him. That must either be immediately communicated to him by his Maker, or afterwards acquired by himself, through Observation and Experience. The latter required Time to effect; and as it was requisite to his Situation, that he should be immediately endued with such an Understanding of himself, and his Creator, as related to his present Duty, and affected his Felicity, he certainly was, by Divine Wisdom and Goodness, timely furnished with it.

3. Man must not only *then* be supplied with a due Degree of Light and Understanding, but he must also be empowered to act up to it, else his Knowledge would have been afforded him in vain. Yet, though he certainly was thus empowered, the Sequel manifested he was placed in a State of Probation, otherwise, he could never have been guilty of the least Failure; for his Maker being essentially and unchangeably good, must have fixed him in a State of immutable Virtue and Goodness, had he determined to fix him at all.

4. As

4. As the omniscient Creator most certainly foresaw what a subtle Adversary Man would have to encounter, he as surely furnished him with Means sufficient to discover his Snares, and resist his Assaults. If Satan was suffered to use his Subtilty and Influence to deceive him, doubtless he was not only warned, but also endued with a Sufficiency of Divine Light and Influence to withstand his Attempts, as he kept duly upon his Watch.

Nothing but the Divine Nature can enable any intelligent Creature to resist Temptation, and act up to the Divine Will. If therefore any created Being is required to keep up thereunto, it must be assisted by Divine Power so to do. God created Man for a Purpose of his own Glory. To glorify God, and to partake of his Glory, Man must walk in Obedience to his Will. Man could neither infallibly know his Will, nor constantly perform it, merely by the Strength of his own Faculties; he must therefore, necessarily have been assisted by the Spirit of God, to enable him to perform his Will, and so to obey him as to glorify him, and enjoy a blessed Inheritance in him; otherwise, the End of Man's Creation could not be answered. Hence it is concluded, the first Man *Adam* was made a *living Soul* by the Inspiration of the second *Adam* Christ, who is a *quickening Spirit*; for "that was not first which 1 Cor. xv. 45, 46. is spiritual, but that which is natural; and "afterward that which is spiritual." That is, *Adam* was first created a natural Man, and then rendered a spiritual One by the quickening Power of the Spirit of Christ, which is the true

true Life, and proper Element for immortal Spirits to live and move in.

Thus the Parents of Mankind, in their original uncorrupted State, being fit Temples for the Holy Ghost to dwell in, were, as well as the Sanctified in Christ afterwards, *Partakers* of the Divine Nature, by the internal quickening of Divine Life. The Author of the Book of *Wisdom* observes, that *Wisdom in all Ages*, and certainly in the first and purest, *entereth Holy Souls*; Which *Wisdom* he describes to be *the Breath of the Power of God, a pure Influence flowing from the Glory of the Almighty, the Brightness of the everlasting Light, the unspotted Mirrour of the Power of God, and the Image of his Goodness*. This clearly denotes the Spirit of the eternal Son of God himself, and evidently concurs with those Parts of the New Testament which declare him to be, *the Power of God, and the Wisdom of God, the true Light, and Life of Men, the Brightness of the Father's Glory, and the Image of the invisible God*.

It was undoubtedly in the Light of this *pure Influence* that *Adam* had such an intuitive Discerning of the Creation, as enabled him to give Names to them according to their several Natures. For we read, "The Lord God formed every Beast of the Field, and every Fowl of the Air, and brought them unto *Adam*, to see what he would call them; and whatsoever *Adam* called every living Creature that was the Name thereof."

Under this celestial Enduement, the sacred Impression of the Divine Image conspicuously appeared in the first of Mankind. "In the Image of God created he them."

5. Had

5. Had Man kept in faithful Obedience to his Heavenly Guide, and rejected the Efforts of the Tempter, he might undoubtedly, in due Time, have been advanced to a Degree of Establishment beyond all Possibility of falling; but not continuing strictly upon his Watch, and, contrary to the Warning before given him, turning his Attention towards the Temptation, when alluringly presented, he slipped from his proper Guard; leaving hold of that Spirit wherein his Life and Strength lay, he fell from it, and all its Advantages, out of the Liberty of the Sons of God, into the Bondage of Corruption: A sure Introduction to Misery. For as Holiness and Happiness are inseparably united, so Sin and Misery are indivisibly connected.

To suppose, that the Almighty Author of all Good, originally subjected Man under a moral Necessity to transgress upon the Appearance of Temptation, is an Imagination too injurious to the Divine Character to be admitted. Our first Parents were unquestionably enabled by their Maker to abide in due Watchfulness, which would have entitled them to Preservation; their Defection from which, was certainly not of him, but of themselves. Had their Lapse been thro' his Will, or intentional Disposition of Circumstances, so that it must inevitably follow, he could not consistently have sentenced them to Punishment for it; because in so doing, they performed his Will, which could not be a Sin against him.

A dangerous Fondness to become knowing in Things hurtful, and no Way necessary, seems to have an early Entrance into the human
Mind,

Gen. iii. 5. Mind. “ In the Day ye eat, your Eyes shall “ be opened, and ye shall be as Gods, know- “ ing Good and Evil.” By the Suggestion of this flattering Falsehood, *Eve* was deceived. Knowing nothing but Good, she might have remained happy; but experiencing Evil, she became otherwise. This Knowledge is as opposite to that of the Divine Wisdom, as Darknefs is to Light. It is certain the Omniscient knows both Good and Evil, but he knows the first by immutable Possession, and perfect Enjoyment, and the last he beholds with Abhorrence, in eternal Opposition to, and infinite Distance from the Purity of his Nature. With sinful Man the Case is reverse, Evil having immediate Possession of him, and Good being out of his Reach, without divine Mercy, he must be completely wretched. This is the necessary Consequence of that boasted Knowledge of the World, which Men acquire by tasting the pernicious and poisonous Sweets of Temptation.

6. The Consequences of this primary Lapse were immediately affecting to the actual Transgressors, and remotely to all their Posterity. 1. They lost the bright Impression of the Divine Image, and the Felicity attending it. Forfeiting the immediate indwelling and pure Influence of G O D’s Holy Spirit, they lost that Divine Similitude, wherein they had enjoyed internal Light, Life, Love, Goodness, Righteousness, Holiness, and Happiness. That omnipresent Spirit of Power, Truth and Virtue, which in their original State had been their Comforter, disunited from them through Transgression, now became their Accuser and Convictor.

Convictor. 2. Lapsing from under due and constant Subjection to the Mind and Spirit of his Creator, the Will of Man separated from the Will of God, and became *Self-will*. Self-love in Man was originally and properly placed in Subservience to the Love of his Maker, who being in all Respects justly Supreme, had, whilst Man stood in cheerful Obedience, the Supremacy in his Affection; but by his undutiful Self-gratification, and letting in the Suggestion of the Tempter, his chief Love turned from his Maker to himself. Thus probably inordinate Self-love and Self-will originated in Man, and they always stand in a Will separate from the Will of God, and a Spirit contrary to his Holy Spirit. This mental Separation opened an easy Road of Access for the Evil Spirit to influence the human Mind towards exterior Objects, and rendered them the Subjects of Temptation. By giving way to carnal Inclinations, Man became carnally-minded, and “to be carnally-minded is *Death*.” Rom. viii.

7. When the Sovereign Legislator first added^{6.} a positive Law to *Adam*, he pre-denounced *immediate Death* upon him, in Case of his Transgression. “In the Day that thou eatest^{Gen. ii.} thereof, thou shalt surely die.” This seems^{17.} to imply a much deeper and more important Meaning than what relates to the Body; a Meaning more immediately affecting to the rational Soul; the Privation of a Life which before Transgression it happily enjoyed, and which, by Disobedience, it must certainly lose. What then is the *proper Life* of the Soul, and what is the Death of that which must for ever exist? Merely *to be*, cannot be the

the Life intended. It must be, *to live in that Life which immutably exists only in the Divine Nature*, and which is not to be enjoyed but by partaking of the Divine Nature, the Spirit of him, who *is the Life*, and *our Life*; that Life the Evangelist declares to be *the true Light of Men*.

This Supernatural, Spiritual, Heavenly Power and Virtue of the great Illuminator, and Quickener, is the *true Life* of the immortal Spirit of Man; and the total Want, or Deprivation thereof, is *its Death*. Turning from this to embrace Temptation, our first Parents did *surely*, in the Day of Transgression, deviate from, and *die in Spirit* to that Divine Life by which they had been quickened. For, *it is the Spirit that quickeneth, or giveth Life*; and when Life departs, Death ensues of Course. As the Body dies when deprived of its animal Life; so the Soul is left in a State of spiritual Death, when that which is its proper Life departs from it; saving this Difference, that the deceased Body remains wholly insensible; but the Soul, in the full State of its Death, still exists under the unavoidable Sense of its Guilt and Misery. Thus, according to *Wisdom* *Man found Death in the Error of his Life*.—“For God made not Death, neither hath he Pleasure in the Destruction of the Living.”—But “through Envy of the Devil came Death into the World.”

C H A P. II.

1. *The Fall of Adam and Eve affected all their Progeny, not with Guilt, but with Infirmary.*
2. *How this accrues.*
3. *The State of Infants.*
4. *The common Ascendence of the sensitive Powers over the rational.*
5. *How the Creature is said, Rom. viii. to be subjected to Vanity by its Creator.*
6. *When arrived to Years of Understanding, we add Sin to Infirmary.*

1. **I**T appears from holy Writ, that previous to our own actual Offences, we are all naturally affected by the Transgression of our Primo-genitors. “By one Man, Sin entered Rom. v. 12.
 “into the World, and Death by Sin, so Death
 “passed upon all Men, for that all have sinned.”
 This is not to be understood of the Death of the Body only; for all come into the World in the Image of the earthly, or, void of the quickening and sensible Influence of Divine Life. But this Disadvantage, through the Supreme Goodness, is amply provided for, and there appears no necessity to conclude, that we all come into the World justly obnoxious to Divine Vengeance, for an Offence committed by our Primo-genitors, before we came into the World. With what Propriety can an Infant, incapable of committing any Crime, be treated as an Offender? The Scripture positively assures us, *God’s Ways are equal*—that *the Soul that sinneth* Eze. xviii.
it shall die, and not the Son for the Fault
of the Father—that *whatever Adam’s Posterity* Rom. v. 15 to 20.
lost

lost through him, that and more they gain in Christ; and undoubtedly, his Mercy and Goodness, and the Extent of his Propitiation, are as applicable to Infants, who have not personally offended, as to Adults who have.

Zech. xii.
1.

2. The immortal reasonable Soul of Man, in every Individual, appears to be the immediate Production of its Creator; for the Prophet *Zechariah*, speaking of the great Acts of God in Creation, asserts, that “ he formeth the Spirit of Man within him.” And in *Eccles.* xii. 7. we read upon the Death of the Body, “ Then shall the Dust return to the Earth as it was, and the Spirit shall return unto God who gave it.” The Soul therefore, receiving its Existence immediately from the Perfection of unchangeable Purity, can have no original Impurity or Intemperance in its Nature; but being immediately and intimately connected with a sensitive Body, and of itself, unable constantly to withstand the Eagerness of the animal Passions after Gratifications of a carnal Nature, is liable to be so influenced by them, as to partake with them in their sensual Indulgencies. In this State the Descendants of *Adam* come into the World, unendued with that divine Life which *Adam* fell from. And who can say, this might not be admitted in Mercy to all the future Generations of Mankind? 1st. That each succeeding Individual might be prevented from incurring the Guilt of repeating the Sin of our prime Ancestors, and falling from the same Degree of Innocence, Purity and Divine Enjoyment. 2d. That, by feeling the Infirmary of our own Nature, and the Want of Divine Assistance, we might become

become the more sensible of our Danger, and necessary Dependence on our Creator, and thence be continually excited to seek after, and cleave to him, in Watchfulness, Circumspection and Prayer, in order to obtain a State of Restoration. 3d. That having in Part attained such a State, our Prudence might be useful towards our Preservation and Growth therein ; since we should certainly be more assiduously concerned, to secure to ourselves a good Condition, obtained through Pains and Difficulty, than one we might have been originally placed in without any Care or Trouble to ourselves.

3. Whatever were the Peculiarities attending the Fall of the first Man and Woman, or those consequent upon it, this is certain, that their Progeny do not come into the World in that same State of Brightness themselves were constituted in after their Creation. It cannot escape the Notice of those who have had the Care of Infants, that the earliest Exertions observable in them, evidently arise from the Powers of animal Desire, and animal Passion ; how prone these are to increase in them, and to predominate as they grow up, and the Solitude it requires to keep Children out of Unruliness and Intemperance, as they advance to Youth's Estate ; how much too potent their inordinate Propensities are for the Government of the rational Faculty ; what Pains are necessary to regulate, and often but to palliate them, by a virtuous Education, and improving converse ; and the Impossibility they should ever be radically subdued and ruled, without the Application of a superior Principle.

4. In the present State of our Nature, the sensitive Powers take the Lead of the rational in the first Stage of Life, as the Soul brings only a Capacity, without any real Knowledge, or Potency, into the World with it. It acquires its Knowledge by Degrees, enlarging also in Capacity to receive it gradually. Every one knows, it is not capable at five or ten Years of Age, to comprehend the same Ideas in the same Extent, as in riper and more advanced Years. It first becomes impressed with the Images of external Things, presented through the corporeal Organs, and afterwards with those mental Ideas inculcated by its primary Instructors, whether true or false. Hence the Bias of Education becomes strong, either to Right or Wrong, according as the Instructions received are agreeable to either, and the Passions being enlisted in their Service, occasionally exercise their Warmth in Favour of the prevalent Idea, or Impression, however wrong it may be; unless the Mind, through Divine Illumination, discover its Error, and submit to its Rectification.

5. Previous to the Reception of Knowledge, the Soul is joined to the Body, by the Power of its Creator, who, in Consequence of the Fall, saw fit it should be so. “ For,” saith the Apostle, “ the Creature was made subject to Vanity, not willingly, but by Reason of him who hath subjected the same in Hope; because the Creature itself also shall be delivered from the Bondage of Corruption, into the glorious Liberty of the Children of God.”

The rational Soul is here intended by *the Creature*, and properly denominates the Man.
Herein

Herein the true Distinction lies, betwixt the human Species and Creatures of inferior Kinds. This descends not with the Body, from Parents to Children ; the Soul being an indivisible immaterial Substance, cannot be generated. The Soul of the Child never was in the Parent, and therefore could never sin in him, nor derive Guilt from his Transgression. Neither can Guilt accrue to it, merely from its being joined to a Body descended from him, because that Junction is the Act of the Creator.

To account a Child guilty, or obnoxious to Punishment, merely for an Offence committed by its Parents, before it could have any Consciousness of Being, is inconsistent both with Justice and Mercy ; therefore no Infant can be born with Guilt upon its Head.

6. Besides our natural Alienation from, and Ignorance of the internal *Life of God*, in our fallen State, it must be acknowledged, that all who have arrived to such a Degree of Maturity as to be capable of receiving a right Understanding, and of distinguishing the inward Monitions of Truth in their Conscience, have also increased and strengthened the Bonds of Corruption upon themselves, in different Degrees, by a repeated, and too frequently an habitual Indulgence of the carnal Part, against the Sense of Duty received, and are more deeply entered into the dark Region of the Shadow of Death, through *their own Trespases and Sins*. Thus “ all have sinned, and come short of the Glory of God.”

Eph. iv.
18.

Ibid. ii. 1.
Rom. iii.
23.



C H A P. III.

1. *The State of Man in the fallen Nature, and the Necessity of his Renovation.* 2. *His Inability to accomplish it for himself, and the Necessity of Divine Assistance thereunto.* 3. *What moral Evil is—that it both may, and must be removed from Man in order to his Felicity.* 4. *Without this, Man is not fully acquitted by the one Offering of our Saviour at Jerufalem.* 5. *The Spirit of God is absolutely necessary to effect this great Work.* 6. *What perfect Redemption from Sin consists in—The Term World, John iii. 16. is not to be confined to the Elect—Christ tasted Death for all Men without Exception.*

1. **W**HATEVER we may have derived from our Parents, we certainly accumulate to ourselves additional Corruption. Gen. vi. 12. “All Flesh hath corrupted his Way upon the Earth.” Every adult Person, in his common natural State, must, upon serious Introversion, find in himself a Proneness to the Gratification of *Self*, and the *sensual Part*, an eager Inclination at Times to forbidden Pleasure, an Aversion to Piety and Holy Walking, a Consciousness of Guilt, and a fearful Apprehension of the Approach of Death. Men generally confess they have erred and strayed, like lost Sheep, from the salutary Paths of Virtue and Duty, and that, such is their Frailty, it is an easy Thing for them to fall in with Temptation; but hard, if not impossible, effectually to

to resist it. Nay, even the high Rewards promised to Virtue and a good Life, and the fore Punishments annexed to Vice and Folly, are altogether insufficient to retain them in the Practice of the former, or to enable them to conquer the Force of their Inclination to the latter. This demonstrates the Corruption of their Nature ; and, as “ out of the Abundance Mat. xii. 34. of the Heart, the Mouth speaketh ;” so from what lodges or presides within, the exterior Practice arises. The Corruption in the Heart corrupts the Actions, Manners, and Language. Hence all the Irregularities in Conduct, all the profane and untrue Speeches, all the common complimentary Falsehoods, to gratify the Pride and Folly of vain Minds.

As the Origin of Evil in Man, came by transferring his Attention and Desire from his Creator to the Creature, dividing his Will from the Will of God, and his Spirit from the Spirit of God ; so the Continuation of Evil in Man is by the Continuance of this Separation, and must abide so long as that remains. In this Situation, commonly called *the State of Nature*, we are both unfit for, and unable to enter the Heavenly Kingdom, which admits of *nothing sinful* Eph. v. 5. or *unclean*. It is therefore absolutely requisite that Man should be made Holy, in order to be happy. Holiness cannot unite with Unholiness ; nor can Ability arise from Infirmary. If Pollution can cleanse itself, if Evil can produce Good, if Death can bring forth Life ; Man thus corrupted, debilitated and deadened, may disengage, reform, quicken, and restore himself. But it is not in the Power of Man, as such, to extricate himself from the Bonds of

Sin and Death. Yet, as Impurity is the Bar,
 Isa. lix. 2. it must be removed. As *Sin separates Man from his Maker*, Man must be separated from Sin, or he cannot be reconciled, and united to him. Without Restoration to a State of Holiness, he cannot enjoy the Felicity pertaining to that State; for, “without Holiness no Man
 Heb. xii. 14. “shall see the Lord.”

How then shall corrupt Man become Holy? How shall he, in a State of utter Incapacity, enter into and maintain a Warfare against his many and mighty Adversaries, which beset him within and without? What Ability has he to fight his Enemy who is already enchained by him? A Power too strong for Man has got Possession; it must be a superior Power to dispossess him, to rescue and restore Man; and who is sufficient for these Things? None but his *Omnipotent Creator* was able to unbind and extricate him. But *his Will Adam* had separated from, *his Law* he had transgressed, *his Command* he had disobeyed, and against *him alone* he had committed this high Offence. Yet, behold the astonishing Compassion and Kindness of infinite Goodness! An all-sufficient Means was straightway provided, for the Redemption both of the actual Offenders and all their Progeny. The eternal Word, the Son, the Lamb of God Almighty, gave instant Demonstration of the Greatness of Divine Love and Mercy, in then concurring with the Father, to yield himself up in due Time to take *the Nature of Man upon him*, and, by resigning it to Suffering and Death, to make it a Propitiation for the whole Species; and also, in
 1 Cor. xii. 7. immediately, and all along, affording a *Manifestation*

festation of his Holy Spirit to every Man to profit withal, in order to their present Deliverance from the Power of Sin, and their everlasting Salvation from the certain Effect of abiding therein to the last, namely, the second Death.

That Man should, of himself, empower himself to live in the constant Practice of crossing his natural Inclinations and Propensities, is a wild Presumption; but that a Spirit infinitely good, and more powerful than all his Enemies, should so influence, incline, and enable him, is highly reasonable to believe, because absolutely necessary. By the Help of God's Spirit, Man may, like the Apostle, be assisted to *keep his Body under*, and *bring it into Subjection*,^{27.} 1 Cor. ix. before the Strength of its Passions and Affections lessen by Decay of Nature; which the rational Faculty can never effectually accomplish, even under that Decay, without superior Assistance.

3. Neither the Possibility, nor Probability, of Man's Purification and Sanctification by the Holy Spirit, can reasonably be doubted; for, *First*, as physical Evil, or bodily Pain, has no *substantial* Existence of its own, but is purely *incidental* to corporeal Nature; so *moral Evil* is to the Soul, a Disorder which it has improperly lapsed into. It is no Part of God's Creation, nor has any real Existence by itself; but is the fallen, defective, distempered Condition of Beings, once created without Intemperance, or Defect. Evil therefore, though it be in Man, is no constituent Part of Man, but an Imperfection adventitious to his Nature, which by an all-powerful Principle, he may
be

be recovered from, and his Nature restored to a State of Fitness for Union with his Maker. *Secondly*, uncreated Omnipotence is certainly more able to cleanse, than the creaturely, corrupt, and fallen Powers of Darkness are to defile; and Infinite Goodness must be as willing and ready to effect the first, as limited Envy the last. Did not the Sovereign Lord intend Man should be made Holy, he would not require it; nor would he require it without affording him the Assistance requisite to accomplish it, for he enjoins no Impossibilities. That he doth require it, the sacred Writings sufficiently witness. “God,” saith an apostolic Writer, “hath not called us unto Uncleaness, *but unto Holiness.*” And, “Christ also loved the Church, and gave himself for it, that he might sanctify and cleanse it, with the washing of Water by the Word,” (or the purifying Efficacy of the Holy Word, or Spirit, which cleanseth the Soul, as Water doth the Body) “that he might present it to himself *a glorious Church*, not having Spot or Wrinkle, or any such Thing, but that *it should be Holy and without blemish.*” In another Place, he gives this Exhortation, “Abstain from all Appearance of Evil”—then proceeds—“And the very God of Peace *sanctify you wholly*, and I pray God, that your whole Spirit, and Soul, and Body, be *preserved blameless* unto the Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” And to encourage them to seek it and hope for it, he immediately assures them, “Faithful is he that calleth you, who also *will do it.*”

4. Vain is that imaginary Pretence, *that Christ has paid the whole Price for us, by which we*

1 Thes. iv.
7.
Eph. v.
25, &c.

1 Thes. v.
22, 24.

we stand fully acquitted in the Sight of God; that we have complete Redemption in him without Sanctification in ourselves; and that by the external Offering up of his Body, he hath perfected the Work for us, and we are already reconciled thereby. For, was this the real Truth, Christ only paid the Price of Man's Redemption, that he might continue in a State of Pollution, and practice Evil with Security; or be justified in breaking the known Commands of God, and serving Satan during the whole Term of this Life. Contrary to this, the apostolic Doctrine is, "His own Self 1 Pet. ii. 24.
 " bore our Sins in his own Body on the Tree, 24.
 " that we being *dead to Sin*, should live unto
 " *Righteousness.*"—He died for all, that they 2 Cor. v. 15.
 " which live should *not henceforth live unto* 15.
 " *themselves*, but unto him who died for them."
 " —How shall we that *are dead to Sin* live any Rom. vi. 2. 12. 21. 22.
 " longer therein?—" Let not Sin therefore 22.
 " reign in your mortal Body, that ye should
 " obey it in the Lusts thereof."—"What
 " Fruit had ye then in those Things whereof
 " ye are now ashamed? For the *End* of those
 " Things is *Death*. But now being *made free*
 " *from Sin*, and become *Servants to God*, ye
 " have your Fruit unto *Holiness*, and the End
 " everlasting Life."

It is true, the Apostle saith, "By one Offer- Heb. x. 14.
 " ing he hath perfected for ever them that are 14.
 " sanctified." But this doth not imply, that his Sacrifice perfected those who never came to be sanctified. Applying it to this Case, it can mean no more than, that such who have so experienced the effectual Operation of Divine Grace, as to become sanctified, have Remission
 by

Rom. iii.
25.

by that one Offering for Sins committed before their Sanctification, which perfects their Redemption ; and also for Transgressions after, upon Repentance. For Sin once committed cannot be undone ; present, and future Obedience is no more than Duty ; and past Offences must still remain against us without Forgiveness. Our Saviour therefore, by his Sacrifice, manifested the Mercy, Love, and Kindness of God, “ by whom,” saith the Apostle, “ he “ was set forth to be a Propitiation through “ Faith in his Blood, to declare his Righte- “ ousness, for the Remission of Sins that are “ past, through the Forbearance of God.” Herein he shewed, that a Door of Reconciliation is opened to all Men ; but those who through Unbelief of, and Disobedience to Divine Grace, never experience the Work of Sanctification, deprive themselves of that unspeakable Advantage ; for it is through Sanctification that any come effectually to enjoy the Benefit of the Sacrifice of Christ. That outward Offering for all, shewed the Love of God towards all ; and that he stands ready to pardon past Transgression, in all who sincerely accept his Terms of true Repentance and Reformation ; but our Salvation is not completed by that single Act only, and the Work of Redemption, finished for us without us. Though Christ died for us, that we might be brought unto Glory, yet we are not actually purified, fitted for, and introduced into the Kingdom *merely* by that one Offering. The Way to Reconciliation was opened by the Death of Christ, but we are not *saved by his Life* till we livingly experience the Work of Salvation in our own Particulars.

5. It is always requisite that the Means be adequate to the End, the Cause sufficient to the Effect; therefore, as all Men throughout all Nations, and every Generation, originally stand in equal Relation to their Creator, have been, and must naturally be, in absolute Need of his Help, in order to Purification and Salvation, the Means afforded for this Purpose must be *universal* to reach all. It must be a Principle of real and powerful Holiness and Goodness, to change the Condition of Man, from Evil to Good. It must be Omnipotent, to enable him to overcome his Adversaries, the World, the Flesh, and the Devil. Nothing but a Spirit superior to all these can effectually cleanse the Soul, and operate to the Expulsion, and Exclusion of those subtle and powerful Enemies which continually seek to hold Men in the Bondage of Corruption; therefore nothing but God's Holy, Universal, Almighty Spirit can effect this necessary Alteration in Man, rectify the Disorder Sin has introduced into his Nature, and raise him up from a State of spiritual Death, by producing a new and Heavenly Birth of Divine Life in him, by which he may be created anew in Christ Jesus unto good Works, and restored to the Image of God in Righteousness and true Holiness.

6. Perfect Redemption consists, first, in paying the Price of Ransom; and second, in bringing out of Bondage, and setting the Prisoner at Liberty. Our Saviour paid the first by his Suffering and Sacrifice; and he performs the last by the effectual Operation of his Spirit, in the Hearts of those who receive him, and resign wholly to him.

None

John iii.
16.

None have Cause to murmur at, or complain against the Dispensations of their benevolent Creator, for in Christ he hath rendered to every Child of *Adam* a full Equivalent for the Loss sustained through his unhappy Fall. “ God so loved the World, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting Life.” I know some alledge, that the *World* here intends not all Men, but the Elect only. But we find the Term *World*, when confined to Men, in the New Testament, is used either for *all* Mankind in general, for the *Majority* of Mankind, or for the *unbelieving* Part of it; and where it intends a Part of the Species, it is often used to signify *Unbelievers*, and to distinguish them from Believers, but is *never spoken of Believers only*. Besides, such an Acceptation would turn the Text into Nonsense, for then it must be thus understood, “ God so loved *the Elect* that he gave his only begotten Son, that *whosoever of the Elect* believeth in him, should not perish, but have everlasting Life.” This would imply, that some of the Elect *would not believe in him*, and all the consequent Absurdities of that Position. But read the Text as it stands, and the Particle *whosoever*, properly distinguishes the World into Believers, and Unbelievers, or Faithful, and Unfaithful, and shews that God so loved *the whole* of his rational Creation, that he gave *all* an Opportunity of being saved through *believing*; and if any did not so embrace it, *their Refusal* was the Cause of their Condemnation, and not the Want of God’s Love, nor of an Opportunity of closing in with, and receiving
the

the Benefit of it. This the four succeeding Verses plainly declare. “ For God sent not his John iii. 17, &c.
 “ Son into the World to condemn the World,
 “ but that the World through him might be
 “ saved. He that believeth on him is not
 “ condemned ; but he that believeth not is con-
 “ demned already, *because he hath not believed*
 “ in the Name of the only begotten Son of
 “ God. And *this is the Condemnation*, that
 “ Light is come into the World, and *Men*
 “ *loved Darkneſs rather than Light*, because
 “ their Deeds were evil. For every one that
 “ doth Evil, hateth the Light, neither cometh
 “ to the Light, lest his Deeds should be re-
 “ proved.” It is not reasonable to conclude,
 the *whole World* can mean leſs than the *whole*
human Species.

The Apoſtle *Peter* ſaith, “ The Prophecy 2 Pet. i. 21 and ii. 1.
 “ came not in old Time, or rather *at any Time*,
 “ by the Will of Man, but Holy Men of God
 “ ſpake as they were moved by the Holy Ghoſt.
 “ But there were falſe Prophets alſo among the
 “ People, even as there ſhall be falſe Teachers
 “ among you, who privily ſhall bring in dam-
 “ nable Hereſies, even *denying the Lord that*
 “ *bought them*, and *bring upon themſelves ſwift*
 “ *Destruction*.” This indicates that Chriſt
 died not only for thoſe who come to be ſaved,
 but alſo for thoſe *who bring Destruction upon*
themſelves ; otherwiſe it cannot be underſtood
 “ that, by his Sacrifice, he *bought or paid the*
Price of Redemption, conditionally for them as
 well as others. But if he *thus bought thoſe who*
denied him, who yet *occasioned their own De-*
struction, it is truly aſſerted in the full Extent
 of the Words, that “ He by the Grace of God Heb. ii. 9.
 “ ſhould

- 1 John ii. 2. “ should taste Death for *every Man* ;” and that
 “ He is the Propitiation for our Sins, and *not*
 “ *for ours only*, but also for the Sins of the
 “ *whole World*.”



C H A P. IV.

1. *The Progeny of Adam not condemnable for his Transgression, but their own.* 2. *The vital Part of Religion is internal, and may be experienced by People under every religious Denomination, and in every Part of the World*—Pagans not necessarily excluded from all Share in Christ, and Christianity; which, 3. *consists not essentially in Exteriors, or an imagery of Religion, but in being endued with a new Nature.* 4 and 5, *This is certainly and sensibly to be known, through the Operation of Divine Grace.* 6. *Christ waits to be gracious at the Door of every Man's Heart, causeth the Dead to hear his Voice, quickens the Observant, and renders them Partakers of his Heavenly Communion.*

1. **H**OWEVER publick a Person *Adam* may be accounted, and however his Posterity might, without a Redeemer, have been by any thought chargeable with his Sin (though I am unable to conceive how any Man should deserve Condemnation for what he could not help) yet our Saviour having paid the Price of our Redemption, *by tasting Death for every Man*, there cannot be any Thing chargeable to *Adam's* Descendants merely on Account of his *Transgression*,

Transgression, exclusive of *their own*. *Original Sin* therefore, in that Sense which implies *Guilt in them for his Offence*, I apprehend, has no Foundation in Truth. Nor, was it really so, could any ceremonious Performance of Men, or even all the Water of *Jordan* wash it away. All exterior Forms, however mistakenly exalted, or celebrated amongst Mankind, are but outward and visible Signs, and altogether ineffectual towards any real Change or Reformation of the Subject. And respecting little Children who are taken away before they have personally offended, they cannot in Equity be chargeable, but may with just Confidence be resigned, as perfectly safe in the Arms of their Saviour, who declared, “ Of such is the Kingdom of Heaven;” and also told his Followers, “ *except ye be converted*, and become as little Children, ye shall not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.”

Mat. xix.

14.
Ibid xviii.

3.

2. The vital Part of Man's Religion and Duty stands, principally, in a right Attention to, and a faithful Obedience of the Manifestation of the Spirit of Christ in the Heart and Conscience. He who pays due and constant Regard to this, is in his Measure a Follower of Christ, and has, in some Degree, the Reality of Christianity in him, live under what Mode of Profession, or in what Part of the World soever he may. For who is a Servant of Christ but he that willingly obeys him? Is he who willingly acts according to his *verbal Precepts*, a Follower of Christ; and is not he who, without the Knowledge of *these*, with equal Willingness follows *the Leadings of his Spirit*, also his Servant? Of this Spirit the truly
Virtuous

Rom. ii.
14, 15.

Virtuous and Religious amongst the Gentiles were, in Degree, Partakers ; “ For,” saith Holy Writ, “ when the Gentiles which have not the
“ Law, do by Nature the Things contained in
“ the Law, these, having not the Law, are a
“ Law unto themselves ; which shew the Work
“ of the Law written in their Hearts, their
“ Conscience also bearing Witness, and their
“ Thoughts the mean While accusing or else
“ excusing one another.”

The Words *by Nature* here, I apprehend, are not to be understood as if the Apostle intended the Gentiles became Virtuous by any Goodness in *their fallen Nature*, which must be the same as all other Mens. The Context shews, he was here distinguishing between those who enjoyed the Ministration of the *Mosaic Law*, and those who had it not ; and he useth the Expression, *by Nature*, in the same Sense as if he had said, *without an Education under the Law*, and proceeds to shew, that though they had it not, yet they practised the Substance intended by the Law. This shewed not, that their own Hearts were their Law, but as the Apostle explains it, that *the Work of the Law was written in their Hearts*, and that they had a Part in the New Covenant, in Reference to which it is said, “ I will put my
“ Law in their inward Parts, and write it in
“ their Hearts.” Though they were without the Law of *Moses*, they were not without Law to God. For, by receiving and retaining the Divine Impressions in their Consciences, they were under the Law to Christ, or subject to the Manifestation of his Spirit in their Hearts, and in Proportion to their Obedience, Partakers
of

Jer. xxxi.
33.

of *the Nature of the Divine Principle* within them. By the internal Operation of *this Nature* it was that they became reformed in Heart, and rectified in Life and Practice, so far as they were so; or as the Text has it, enabled “to do the Things contained in the Law.” Originally disordered, and actually depraved, *their own Nature* as Men could never have led and empowered them to this; for, since the primary Lapse, *it is prone to Evil*, and true Reformation Rom. vii. 18. and Religion arise not from *that disordered and corrupt Ground*. They come not by Nature, but by Grace. They are the Fruit of that good Seed universally sown in every Heart, by the great and good Husbandman for that End. Were it not for the Notices and Powers communicated by this internal Principle, Man must have continued to proceed in the Increase of Corruption, Irreligion and Misery; as appears too evidently by the Conduct of such as disregard it. Not by following *their own Nature* therefore, but by Obedience to the inward Law of *the Divine Nature* written in the Heart, the conscientiously Virtuous amongst the Gentiles, as well as others, were enabled to perform the Things, or *just Morals* contained in the *Mosaic Law*, and thereby to evidence in their Measures, the effectual Operation and Authority of the Divine Lawgiver within them.

The Gentiles therefore partaking of the Law written in the Heart, cannot properly be said to be excluded from all Share in the New Covenant, or Dispensation of the Gospel. The Gospel, taken in its full Extent, is the Revelation of the Love and Mercy, and the Offer and Operation of the Grace of God, through Christ,

Christ, to fallen Man in his natural and corruptible State, in order to his Restoration and Salvation. It is not wholly contracted into the *mere Tidings*; but, including these, goes deeper, and *essentially* consists in the Thing declared by them; *the Power of God administered to the Salvation of the Soul*. By this the outward Coming of Christ is rendered truly and fully effectual to each Individual. Those who believe in, and obey him in his inward and spiritual Manifestations, by which the Gospel is preached in every rational Creature under Heaven, may come to be Partakers of his Life, and be saved by him from the second Death of eternal Misery, though providentially incapacitated to know the exterior History of his Incarnation, &c.

That virtuous and devout Gentiles were approved of God, appears in the Case of *Cornelius*, for we find that before his Reception of historical and verbal Christianity, his sincere Devotion, and Reverence towards his Creator, and charitable Acts to the Needy, “came up for a Memorial before God,” who also now taught *Peter*, Verse 15, the Gentiles he had thus cleansed were no more to be esteemed *common* or *unclean* than the believing *Jews*, and gave him, *of a Truth*, to perceive, “that *God is no Respector of Persons*; but in every Nation, he that feareth him, and worketh Righteousness, is accepted with him.”

Hence it appears, those who conscientiously obey the spiritual Manifestations of Christ in them, are internally, though not by outward Profession, his Disciples and Followers, and truly believe in him so far as he is revealed to them;

them ; for Obedience is the certain Proof of a right Faith. And I make no Question, but those in any Part of the Globe, who, from invincible Obstacles, have not the Opportunity of historical Christianity, in their Obedience to the spiritual Appearance of Christ in their Hearts, are accepted, and partake of the Benefits of his Death. Why should they not be as capable of receiving Advantage by the Sacrifice of Christ, as Disadvantage by the Fall of *Adam*, whilst they are equally Strangers to the History of both? But certainly, those to whom the sacred Writings are providentially communicated, are under double Obligation, since they are favoured with that additional instrumental Advantage ; and it will tend to their greater Condemnation, if they believe not unto Obedience. For, however high the Profession of such may be, they are but imperfect, superficial, ineffectual Believers, who hold with the external Part, and experience not the internal : Christians *in Name*, but *not in Deed* and *in Truth*. It is essential to us who have the Scriptures, to believe both in the outward Coming, and inward Ministration of our Saviour, resigning to him, and trusting in him, with that Faith of the Operation of God, which works by Love to the Purification of the Heart, and is the saving Faith of the Gospel.

Complete Christianity has both an Inside and an Outside ; a Profession or bodily Appearance, and a Life and Virtue, which is as a Soul to that Body. Those who are in Possession of both, are complete Christians. Those who have the inward Part without the outward, though incomplete in that Respect, will, in

the Sight of perfect Equity, certainly be preferred to such as have the latter without the former; and it would be well for all who have the History, and profess the Christian Religion, yet walk contrary to its Requirings, could they change Conditions at last with such conscientious Gentiles. Let those who are so deeply affected with Absurdity, as to believe or imagine, that infinite Wisdom, Goodness and Equity, has confined Salvation to such of his Creatures as happen, without any Choice of their own, to inhabit particular Spots of the Globe, are formalized after a peculiar Manner, or entertain one particular Set of Articles and Opinions, let such duly consider the following

Mat. viii.
10, 11, 12.

Texts. "Verily I say unto you, I have not
"found so great Faith, no not in *Israel*; and
"I say unto you, That many shall come
"from the East and West, and shall sit down
"with *Abraham*, and *Isaac*, and *Jacob*, in the
"Kingdom of Heaven; but the Children of
"the Kingdom" (by Education merely) "shall
"be cast out into utter Darkness; there shall
"be weeping and gnashing of Teeth." "After
"this I beheld, and lo, a great Multitude,
"which no Man could number, *of all Nations*,
"*and Kindreds, and People, and Tongues*, stood
"before the Throne, and before the Lamb,
"clothed with white Robes, and Palms in
"their Hands; and cried with a loud Voice,
"saying, Salvation to our God, who sitteth
"upon the Throne, and unto the Lamb!"

Rev. vii.
9, 10.

3. Real Christianity consists not in the Profession of any framed Articles of Belief, nor in the Practice of Signs and Ceremonies, however displayed with exterior Pomp, or whatever
Significance

Significance may be fancifully attributed to them by their Supporters. Form and Profession make not a real Christian; but the putting on of a new Nature. “They that *are Christ’s* Gal. v. 24.
 “have crucified the Flesh with the Affections
 “and Lusts.” “If any Man be *in Christ*, he 2 Cor. v.
 “is a *new Creature*; old Things are past away; 17, 18.
 “behold all Things are become *new*, and all
 “Things are *of God*.” The Necessity of Regeneration, the Power by which it is effected, and the Co-operation of God and Man therein, are all included in that Text, “If ye live after Rom. viii.
 “the Flesh, ye shall die; but if ye through 13, 14.
 “the Spirit do mortify the Deeds of the Body,
 “ye shall live. For as many as are led by the
 “Spirit of God, they are the Sons of God.”

4. The New Birth is not brought forth in Particulars imperceptibly. The New Man is renewed *in Knowledge*; in a certain and sensible Col. iii.
 Experience. The Soul in whom it is going 10.
 forward, has an internal Sense of it through its whole Progress, and must keep a steady Eye thereunto, that it may go forward. “We all,” 2 Cor. iii.
 saith the Apostle, “*with open Face beholding* 18.
 “as in a Glass, the Glory of the Lord, are
 “changed into the same Image, from Glory
 “to Glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”
 By looking at the deceitful Beauty of Temptation, Men fall into Sin, and by keeping a steadfast Eye inwardly unto Christ in Spirit, with humble Resignation to him, and earnest Desire after him, Man finds Preservation, and gradually advanceth from one Degree of Grace to another, till he really experienceth a Renewal of the Divine Likeness upon his Soul, and an inward Translation out of Sin, Darkeness and

Death, into Divine Light, Life and Holiness ; and thereby, in Conclusion, from Anxiety and Misery, to Peace and Felicity.

5. The natural Man may polish and adorn himself with Variety of Literature, Arts and Breeding, but in his best Accomplishments, he is but the natural Man still, which the Apostle
- 1 Cor. ii. 14. declares, *receiveth not the Things of the Spirit of God, neither can he know them.* This is the natural Condition of all Men, before the Work of Renovation is begun in them, and seeing all stand in Need of Divine Grace to effect it, and
- 1 Tim. ii. 4. that “ God will have, *or willeth*, all Men to “ be saved, and to come unto the Knowledge
- Tit. ii. 11, 12. “ of the Truth ;” so, “ the Grace of God *that bringeth Salvation*, hath appeared to all Men, “ teaching us,” (by its Convictions) “ that “ denying Ungodliness, and worldly Lusts, we “ should live soberly, righteously, and godly
- Psal. l. 1. “ in this present World.” Thus, “ the mighty “ God, even the Lord hath spoken, and called “ the Earth, from the Rising of the Sun unto “ the going down thereof.” All the Personal Instructions, and Writings of the Prophets, Apostles, and their Contemporaries taken in their full Extent, have never been any Thing near so universal amongst Mankind, as this *Grace and Power of God* ; for it always hath been, and is present to every Individual, in all Nations, and throughout every Generation.
- Isa. xlix. 6. 6. He who is given *for a Light to the Gentiles, and God’s Salvation to the Ends of the Earth*, not only dispenseth of his Grace universally and individually, but even waits to be gracious. “ Behold,” saith he, “ I stand at
- Rev. iii. 20. “ the Door and knock : If any Man hear my “ Voice,

“ Voice, and open the Door, I will come in to
 “ him, and will sup with him, and he with
 “ me.” This is Christ in Spirit, who pro-
 claimeth, *He that hath an Ear, let him hear.*

Query. But if Man in his fallen Estate be dead, how can the Dead hear?

Anf. When the Saviour called, “ *Lazarus* John xi.
 “ come forth !” The Dead was quickened, ^{43.}
 and immediately obeyed. The Voice of him
who is a quickening Spirit, is a quickening
 Power. “ The Hour is coming, *and now is*, 1 Cor. xv.
 “ when the *Dead shall hear* the Voice of the ^{45.}
 “ Son of God, and *they that hear shall live.*” John v. 25.

Query. What is meant by his standing at the Door?

Anfw. His wonderful Condescension, Patience and Long-forgearance, in waiting upon the Soul of Man, as for an Entrance; that as he is *a rational Creature*, he may be prevailed with *willingly* to open his Heart to his Redeemer, and receive him.

Query. How doth Christ in Spirit knock, or call?

Anfw. By influencing the Soul in its Seasons of Quietude, so as to excite Inclinations and Desires towards Good; and also at other Times, by distressing it with the painful Sensations of Guilt, and Remorse, for its sinful Pursuits and Practices.

Query. How shall Man open to him, and receive him?

Anfw. By resigning his Attachment to Self, and the Propensities of Sense, and humbly adhering to the Voice, or present Manifestations of the Spirit.

Query.

Query. How doth the Lord come in and sup with Man, and make him a Partaker of his Supper?

Ans. When the Spirit of Christ is received by the Soul in Faith, Love and due Submission, he proceeds by Degrees to set it at Liberty from the Bondage and Influence of Corruption;

2 Cor. iii. 17. for, "where the Spirit of the Lord is," (*in Possession*) "there is Liberty;" and when he hath brought the Soul into a proper Degree of Purification, he sheds the Comfort of his Love into it, and makes it a Partaker of the Communion of Saints, which is inward and spiritual. This is the true Supper of the Lord. He who participates of this, discerns and tastes the Lord's spiritual Body, and experienceth it to be
John vi. 55. *Meat indeed, and his Blood to be Drink indeed.*



C H A P. V.

1. *God's true and faithful Witness in the Conscience a Divine Monitor, and daily Preacher to Man.* 2. *It produceth the New-birth in the Obedient; and,* 3, *promoteth its Growth in them.* 4. *This no Indignity to Man, but the contrary, and of absolute Necessity to his Ascendence above sublunary Considerations.* 5. *It is not beneath the Dignity of the Creator to make Man so far the Subject of his especial Regard, as to enable him to answer the End he created him for. The same Power that created, requisite to the Support of his Creation, and his continual Superintendence necessary to Mankind.*

1. **M**ANKIND are not left to Satan, nor to their own Lusts, nor to live without God in the World. A Way is cast up. A Means is provided. Besides the natural, and traditional Conscioufness of mere moral Good and Evil in every Breast, God hath a Divine Witness in the Heart of each Individual, which will truly manifest Right and Wrong in the Consciences of those who faithfully attend thereunto, afford Light and Power to set them free from the Mists of Prepossession and Prejudice, and become to them a safe Conductor, and an able Supporter in the Paths of Religion and Virtue.

What Instructor can we have equal to this most intimate Witness? A Monitor so near, so constant, so faithful, so infallible! This is the
great

great Gospel-privilege of every Man: The Advantage of having it preached Day by Day in his own Heart, without Money, and without Price, yet with Certainty. Is it reasonable to conclude, this nice, true, and awful Discerner, should be less than Divine? Can any Person, upon serious Consideration, imagine it to be the Nature of the fallen Man himself? Is there the least Probability that any Thing so corrupted and clouded, should so clearly and instantly distinguish, and would the Heart of Man, which is declared by Inspiration to be *deceitful above all Things, and desperately wicked*, so faithfully reprove itself? Would that which delights in its own Indulgence, and is impatient of Restraint, act in daily Control to its own Inclinations? Is it the Property of Evil to do Good? Here is a just Criterion. That which is natural, leads according to Nature; that which is spiritual according to the Spirit. These are distinguished in Scripture by the Terms *Flesh* and *Spirit*, and are truly said to war against each other in Man. As Sin wars against the Spirit to destroy the Soul, the Spirit wars against Sin to save the Soul.

Let me query with you, who, instead of embracing in Humility, Love, and Thankfulness, this upright Principle *as Divine*, are exerting your Abilities to depreciate and revile it. Whilst you confess it distinguishes Right from Wrong in your own Breasts, by its Approbation of the first, and Rebuke of the last; can you thus acknowledge it to be infallibly Good, and at the same Time attribute it to yourselves? “ I know,” saith *Paul*, “ that in me, that is “ in my *Flesh*,” (or belonging to my Nature) “ dwelleth

Jer. xvii.
9.

Rom. vii.
23
Gal. v. 17.

Rom. vii.
18.

“ dwelleth no good Thing.” Is your Nature in a better Condition than his was? Is there *any* good Thing in yours, yet was there *none* in his? He confessed he had none as Man. I presume you have no more than he had. Whence then this quick and righteous Discriminator appearing in your Consciences? You will not say, it is of Satan; it must therefore either be of Man, or of God. For the Reasons above hinted, it cannot be of Man; it must therefore be of God. Wonderful is the Mercy, and great the Advantage to every Man, that God himself, according to the Scriptures, thus condescends to be *the Teacher of his People*, by the Manifestation of his Spirit in every Heart; and certainly it ought to be accepted and observed with the greatest Reverence and Thankfulness.

Isa. ii. 3.
and liv. 13.
Jer. xxxi.
34.
John vi.
45. and
xvi. 13.
1 Thes. iv.
9.
1 John ii.
27.

2. The Increase and Operation of this living Principle becomes a new Life in and to the obedient Soul, quickening and refreshing it with a Sense of Divine Love, Strength, and Comfort. This Life being begot and brought forth by the Holy Spirit in the willing Mind, is called a *Birth* of the Spirit, and being its new Production there, it is stiled the *New-birth*; and seeing our first Parents, immediately upon their Creation, were favoured with this spiritual Birth in them, and lost it by Disobedience, the Renewal of it, both in themselves and in their Posterity, has taken the Terms of *Regeneration* and *Renovation*, or *the Birth of Divine Life renewed in Man*. Being Inheritors of spiritual Death in *Adam*, or in the fallen State and Nature, we can only be born again to Life in Christ, by the Power and Virtue of his Holy Spirit, who is *the Resur-* John xi.
rection and the Life. 3. Every 25.

3. Every productive Power brings forth its own Likeness; the evil Spirit an evil Birth, and the good Spirit a Birth answerable to its Goodness; and as every natural Birth admits of a Growth, so doth this spiritual Birth in the Soul. Our Saviour represents its gradual Progression, in those Similies of the Increase of the Mustard-feed, the Process of Leaven, and the springing up of *living Water* into everlasting Life. The Apostles *Peter* and *John* also shew the several Gradations experienced amongst the Believers, under the Similies of new-born

Luke xiii. 18, 22. John iv. 14. Babes, Children, young Men, and Fathers. There is likewise not only a Progression from the lowest of these States to the highest, but even that of Fathers admits of continual Advances, as *Paul* witnesseth, who, tho' he truly asserted, that *the Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus had set him free from the Law of Sin and Death*; yet he was sensible of higher Degrees of Attainment still before him, and therefore, after he had been near thirty Years in the Apostleship, he makes this Acknowledgment;

Rom. viii. 2. “Not as though I had already attained, either
Phil. iii. 12, 13, 14. “were already perfect, but I follow after, if
 “that I may apprehend that for which also I
 “am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren,
 “I count not myself to have apprehended; but
 “this one Thing I do, forgetting those Things
 “which are behind, and reaching forth unto
 “those Things which are before, I press
 “toward the Mark, for the Prize of the high
 “Calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

4. Those who treat this Doctrine, of the Necessity of Man's being renewed, led, and guided by the Spirit of his Maker, as a Disparagement

ragement to human Reason, put the highest Indignity upon the supreme Wisdom, Goodness, and Power. The Dignity of human Nature consists not in Self-sufficiency. The most exalted of created Beings neither exist, nor act independent of their Creator; much less Man, who in his primitive Purity was *made* Heb. ii. 7. *lower than the Angels*. He stands in continual Need of Divine Help; and his true Dignity consists in being, by his Reason, above all inferior Creatures capable of *consciously receiving* that Assistance, and of being thereby preferred to, and preserved in a blessed Union and Communion with his Maker. It cannot be any lessening to an Inferior to be directed and guided by a superior Being; especially by the Supreme Lord, and sole Author of all Existence, Infinite in Excellency, Power and Wisdom, and Immutable in Glory. Endued with his Spirit, in any Degree, the Creature is raised above the highest Elevation of its own Nature; and the more it is clothed with it, the more it is dignified and exalted.

No created Being, by its natural Powers, can rise above its natural Sphere. To reach a sublimer Station, it must be assisted by Strength superior to its own; a Power equal to the Height of its Ascent. It is only when the Sun of Righteousness sheds forth its quickening Beams upon the Spirit of Man, that the poor Worm is capacitated in Reality, to take Wing and mount above its sublunary Limits, towards the Regions celestial.

5. Some Writers of the Epicurean Cast, have imagined it beneath the Divine Greatness, for the Sovereign Lord of all, to stoop so low as
to

Pro. xvi.
5.

Iſa. xliii.
7.

to make Man a peculiar Object of his Notice and Regard. To ſuch as miſtake thoſe ſure Marks of Degeneracy, *Pride* and *Haughtineſs*, for Greatneſs of Soul, this may ſeem reaſonable; but in him to whom *Pride* is *Abomination*, and as diſtant from his Similitude as Darkneſs is to Light, it cannot have any Place. What it is not below him to create, it cannot be beneath him to regard, proportionably to the End he made it for; and ſeeing Man was created *for a Purpoſe of his Glory*, and to partake of his Felicity, it would derogate from his Wiſdom and Goodneſs, to ſuppoſe he ſhould look upon it as below him to enable Man to anſwer the great End of his Creation; which he could not by any Means do, without a competent Aſſiſtance from his Maker. Pride was the Cauſe of the Degeneracy of Angels, and its natural Conſequence is the Deſtruction of Peace and Felicity to all that entertain it. By being Something in our own Conceit, attributing any Good to ourſelves, or aſpiring above our Place and due Order, we center in Pride and Arrogance. Created Beings may be guilty of this; but it is impoſſible to that all-perfect Exiſtence, who is Infinite, Omnipotent, and Immutable.

Diſcourſe
on Provi-
dence.

This viſible World demonſtrates, it was made by an Omnipotent Power, and is preſerved by the ſame Power. Without Power it could not be made, and as *Tho. Sherlock* juſtly obſerves, “ That which owes its very Being to Power, “ muſt depend upon the Power that made it, “ for it can have no Principle of Self-sub- “ ſiſtence independent on its Cauſe.” What doth not neceſſarily exiſt, muſt both be originally created, and continually upheld by the Power,

Power, that made it. It had no Being before its Creation. It cannot retain its Being against the Will of its Creator. Its Existence and Support stand equally in the Power of its Maker, without whom it was Nothing, could never have existed, nor can continue in Existence. It was made by his Power, is preserved by his Power, and upon the Withdrawment of his Power would dissolve and vanish into its original Nothing. There is no Medium between Self-existence and Dependence on its Cause; therefore a Cessation from it of the Power that made it, is Annihilation to it. Thus, as all created Things were made, and still subsist solely by the Energy of the Creator's Will and Power, he must necessarily, whilst they exist, be omni-present with them, in them, and thro' them; therefore cannot be ignorant of any Thing relating to them, nor unconcerned about them, or any Part of them.

The continual Interposition and Superintendence of the Spirit of God, was always requisite to Man, both to preserve him whilst in Innocence, and to recover him from under his fallen Estate, by governing the Effects of natural Causes; and to counteract the Wiles, and oppose the Influences of the evil Spirit. Therefore the great Mediator for, and Redeemer of Men, was from the Beginning, not only incarnately and corporeally given for a Propitiation for the Sins of the whole World, to be testified, or verified, in due Time; but he was also as universally given, in a spiritual Manner, to be *a Witness, a Leader, and Commander.* Isa. lv. 4.

1. He is spiritually given for *a Witness*, to testify against Sin in every Breast, by his Smitings

ings there for Evil conceived or committed. 2. For a *Leader* and *Commander*, to such as pay due Regard to his Convictions, by turning from Iniquity to him that smites them, and cleaving to him in that Faith and Love he produces in them. These he leads in a Cross to all the corrupt Nature, and empowers them to follow him in the Regeneration. This is the true doctrinal Cross of Christ.



C H A P. VI.

1. *Regeneration not only necessary, but really experienced by the Primitive Christians.* 2. *Paul's comprehensive Description of this great Work. It answers to the original Work of Creation, and is effected only by the Holy Spirit.* 3. *An Objection against the Sensibility of this Work answered.* 4. *The same continued.* 5. *Who it is that disbelieves it. The Renunciation of human Reason not required, but the yielding it to an infallible Instructor, in order to its Rectification and Improvement.*

1. **N**OW, O Man! What is the great Business of thy Life in this World, but to regain thy Place in the Paradise of God; to secure an everlasting Establishment in *that Inheritance which is incorruptible, undefiled, and fadeth not away!* To accomplish this, thou must be stripped of all that which unfits thee for an Entrance. Whatever has been the Cause of Exclusion must be removed. Whatever can have no Place nor Habitation there, must be separated from thee, or thou canst not be admitted. That which lets will let till it be taken

taken out of the Way. Whatever thou hast in thee or about thee, that thou art attached to in Consequence of the Fall, all *separate Self*, and the *carnal Mind* thou must resign, or thou canst never know a Restoration. The Gospel-axe, the Power of the Spirit of God, must be laid to the Root of the Tree of Corruption in thee, that it may be extirpated, and the Vine of Life implanted in its Room, that in the Heart, where the sinful Nature hath spread its poisonous Produce, the engrafted Word which is able to regenerate and save the Soul, may flourish, and bring forth its Heavenly Fruits; from whence ariseth Happiness to the Creature, and Praise to the eternal Author of all Virtue and Felicity.

James i.
21.

The Necessity of Regeneration was not only preached to the People in the primitive Times, but was actually experienced by the Believers.

A clear and pregnant Instance we have in 1 Cor. vi. 9, 10, 11. "Know ye not that the Unrighteous shall not inherit the Kingdom of God? Be not deceived, neither Fornicators, nor Idolaters, nor Adulterers, nor Effeminate, nor Abusers of themselves with Mankind, nor Thieves, nor Covetous, nor Drunkards, nor Revilers, nor Extortioners, shall inherit the Kingdom of God; and such were some of you; but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified, in the Name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God." Here the Apostle plainly testifies, that some of the *Corinthian Brethren*, who had been of polluted Hearts and vicious Lives, were become regenerated, made clean and holy, and shews this great Change in them, was wrought

1 Pet. i.
22, 23.

wrought *in the Name, or Power, of the Lord Jesus*, which he explains to be, *by the Spirit of our God*. The Apostle *Peter* concurs with *Paul* in bearing the like Testimony. “ Seeing
“ ye have purified your Souls in obeying the
“ Truth, *through the Spirit*, unto unfeigned
“ Love of the Brethren; see that ye love one
“ another with a pure Heart fervently; *being*
“ *born again*, not of corruptible Seed, but
“ incorruptible, *by the Word of God, which*
“ *liveth and abideth for Ever*.” To the like Purpose might be added, *Eph. ii. 5, 6. Col. i. 13,—ii. 10, 11, 12, 13—iii. 9, 10.* with the 6th Chapter of the Epistle to the *Romans*, and many other Texts.

2. The Apostle particularly shews the Nature and Manner of this Work in *Romans* the viith and viiith; which, for Want of a real Experience of, many have been led to imagine, were intended by him, as only descriptive of his own Condition at the Time he wrote them; yet it is manifest, they comprehend *diverse*, and even *contrary* Conditions, which himself and others had experienced in their Christian Progress, and which it was impossible he should be in at one and the same Time; *viz.* a State of Darkness, and a State of Light; a State of Uncleanneſs, and a State of Purity; a State of Bondage, and a State of Liberty; a State of Life, and a State of Death.

Chap. vii. 5. he saith, “ When we were in
“ the Flesh,” (under the Dominion of the carnal Nature) “ the Motions of Sins which
“ were” (manifested) “ by the Law, did work
“ in our Members to bring forth Fruit unto
“ Death.” Here he refers back to that State
of

of Sin and Death, they had formerly been enthralled in, but were now past, as fully appears by the succeeding Verse, which saith, " But now we are delivered from the Law, *that being dead wherein we were held*, that we should serve in Newness of Spirit, and not in the Oldness of the Letter." Verse 7, he returns to the former State again, and becomes more particular. " I had not known Sin," saith he, " but by the Law." Before he became sensibly convicted in his own Conscience, where the Sense of the Law was opened to him; he remained in his first State of natural Blindness, yet knew it not to be such, notwithstanding his *learned Education*, and *legal Strictness*. Though dead as to any Sense of Divine Life, yet he was alive in the Spirit of the World; Rom. vii
 " For," saith he, " I was alive without the Law ⁹"
 " once; but when the Commandment came, Sin revived, and I died." Opposed by the internal Administration of the spiritual Law, which brought Conviction, the sinful Nature was afresh excited by the Powers of Evil, and sprung up as with new Life and Vigour, to obstruct his Escape from it; " For, without Verse 8.
 " the Law Sin was dead." That is, its Nature remained quiet and undisturbed, enjoying its Indulgence without Interruption, till the Law of Life was administered against it. Then
 " the Commandment, which was ordained to Verse 10,
 " Life, I found" (by the Resistance of that ¹¹
 Nature) " to be unto Death. For Sin taking
 " Occasion by the Commandment, deceived
 " me, and by it slew me." Or, darkened me, and brought a Sense of Death over me. It seems to have deceived him at first into a Belief

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that

that the Law brought forth Death, because he found a Sense of Death ensue upon the Convictions of this Law; but Death is the Fruit of Sin, which is condemned by the Law: For

Verse 12, 13. saith he, " the Law is Holy, and the Commandment Holy, Just, and Good. Was then that which is Good made Death unto me? God forbid." He found it was that which so violently opposed it that produced Death, and occasioned the Condemnation of the Law to come upon him, which discovered this Death in him. This was permitted *that Sin might appear Sin*, and that *by the* convicting Force of the Commandment *it might become exceeding sinful* in his View, or be held by him in Abhorrence. He then feelingly expresses the enthralled Situation of this convicted, but unconverted State. " *The Law is spiritual,* but I am carnal, sold under Sin." That is, he found himself as really in Captivity under Sin, as those are to their Purchasers who are sold into Slavery. " For that which I do, I allow not." I am convinced it is Evil, and would gladly be delivered from it, but notwithstanding my Convictions, am under its Power, and unable to extricate myself. " For the Good that I would, I do not; but the Evil which I would not, that I do." Yet, in patient Submission, and fervent cleaving to God, some Consolation attends this awakened Condition; for, " If I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but Sin that dwelleth in me. For I delight in the Law of God after the inward Man; but *I see* another Law" (or Power) " in my Members, warring against the Law of my Mind, and bringing

" me

Rom. vii.
14.

Verse 15.

Verse 19.

Verse 20,
21, 22, 23.

“ me into Captivity to the Law” (or Power)
 “ of Sin, which is in my Members.” Thus
 prevented of what I love, and enthralled by
 what I hate, what a miserable Slavery am I
 in! “ O, wretched Man that I am! Who
 “ shall deliver me from the Body of this
 “ Death?” Verse 24.

He then, still personating One in this strug- Verse 25.
 gling Situation, thanks God, through Jesus
 Christ, for having brought him thus far on his
 Christian Course and Warfare, that he could
will to do Good, though yet *unable* actually to
 perform it. Hence he had a Ground of Thank-
 fulness, in Hope that he who had wrought *the*
Will in him, would also in due Time perfect
the Deed by him. In Conclusion, he proceeds
 to shew, though this had *once* been his Condi-
 tion, he *now* experienced perfect Deliverance,
 from all the perplexing and afflicting Circum-
 stances of this, and the several exercising States
 he had formerly passed through, and had just
 been giving so lively a Description of. “ There Rom. viii.
 “ is therefore,” saith he, “ now no Condem- I, 2.
 “ nation to them which are in Christ Jesus,”
 (as he then certainly was) “ who walk not
 “ after the Flesh, but after the Spirit: For
 “ the Law of *the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus*,
 “ *hath set me free from the Law of Sin and*
 “ *Death.*” This again testifies his Deliverance,
 and answers to that first cited, “ Now we are Chap. vii.
 “ delivered from the Law,” (which condemn- 6.
 eth for Sin) “ that,” (sinful Nature) “ being
 “ dead wherein we were held, that we should
 “ serve in Newness of Spirit, and not in the
 “ Oldness of the Letter.” With these accords
 that of *Coloss. i. 12, 13.* “ Giving Thanks
 D 2 “ unto

“ unto the Father, who hath made us meet to
 “ be Partakers of the Inheritance of the Saints
 “ in Light: *Who hath delivered us from the*
 “ *Power of Darkneſs, and hath translated us*
 “ *into the Kingdom of his dear Son.*”

In the Paſſages above cited from *Rom.* vii. and viii. the experienced Apoſtle evidently includes a Representation of three very different Conditions, in their Courſe of Progreſſion, and State of Diſparity from each other. Firſt, a natural blind unconvicted State; which is that
 Gen. i. 2. of Darkneſs and Death, anſwering to the original Chaos before Light was brought forth. Second, a State of Illumination and Diſcovery, of Conviction and internal Warfare, in order to a complete Converſion; which partakes of a Mixture, and ſhews Light and Darkneſs in the Act of Separation, like that in *Gen.* i. 3, 4, 5. Third, a State of Redemption from the Power of Sin, through Purification, and a Tranſlation into the ſpiritual Kingdom of Chriſt; which is the State of the perfect Chriſtian, and completes the new Creation, wherein every Thing takes its due Place, and moves in its proper Order. I now refer it to the intelligent Reader, whether it is not an Abſurdity to imagine, that theſe three diſverſe, and in ſome Reſpects contrary States ſhould all ſubſiſt together, at the ſame Time, in the ſame Subject.

By this Representation, which contains a brief and comprehensive Delineation of the Work of the New-birth, the Apoſtle ſhews to ſuch as are young in the Faith, what different States they have to paſs through in that preparatory Travel, and alſo reminds the Regenerate
 of

of what they have witnessed, in the Lines of his own Experience. He describes the various Steps, and principal Leadings of the Holy Spirit, till by its effectual Operation, the Soul is rendered a new Creature, and introduced into the Kingdom of God; which being inward and spiritual, is entered by an inward and spiritual Way. Hence it is clear, a Man may acquire all the Learning, and receive all the Degrees that Schools and Colleges can bestow, with all the Authority Men can afford him, and may be strict in the Practice of all the Forms and Exteriors of Religion; and yet remain *the natural Man* still. These can bring him no nearer to true Regeneration, than he was the Moment of his Birth; for the New-birth is the Work of the Holy Spirit only. Nothing but the Spirit of Holiness can make a Man Holy; for nothing can communicate what it hath not. Nothing can set Men free from the Power of Sin, and its Wages, Death, but the Law, or Power, of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus individually administered. This, which turneth Sinners into Saints, by a real Purgation, and renders them, as to their inward State, new Creatures, remains to be their Light and Leader, and the primary Guide of their Life and Conduct, by its immediate Manifestations in the Heart; whereby it frequently brings Scripture-Truths to their Remembrance, and opens the Sense of them profitably to their Understandings, at the same Time influencing the Mind to a Practice answerable.

3. Evident as it is, that the Apostle in the foregoing Scriptures, describes divers Changes of Condition, which through the Operation
and

and Effect of the Holy Spirit, he had *certainly known and sensibly felt*; yet some have appeared even amongst the Leaders of the People, who acknowledge,* “ The Influence of God’s Spirit enables us to render him an acceptable Service,” but assert, *that it is in a Way imperceptible to us; that the Sacred Writings are utterly silent concerning any sensible Demonstrations of its Workings within us, that they cannot be distinguished from the Efforts of our own Reason; that all Pretences to it are suggested by an enthusiastic or distempered Fancy; and that there never was a Christian with a cool Head, and a sound Judgment, that in any Instance of a Change of Life, would presume to say, which Part of his Reformation was owing to Divine Help.*

The truly sound reformed Christian knows and acknowledges, every Part of his Reformation is owing to Divine Help; and whoever propagate the above-cited anti-scriptural Doctrine, demonstrate their Ignorance of true Regeneration, and that their Wisdom is but the superficial Wisdom of Words, which can only enable them to make a Shew of Knowledge, by talking about the Things of God, without any right Understanding of them. The Pomp of Science, and the Flourish of Eloquence, have no more Alliance to Truth than the Pride of Life. They belong to the Wisdom of this World, by which God is not to be known; “ For the World by Wisdom
“ knew not God, nor the Things of God.”
All the Knowledge of *the natural Man, the Man*

* See a Quotation from Sermons published under the ludicrous Title of *Yorick’s*, in the Gentleman’s Magazine for April, 1766.

Man whose Nature remains unchanged, whether called *Pagan*, *Jew*, or *Christian*, and whether it be stiled Philosophy or Divinity, is but the ineffectual ideal Wisdom of this World: The vaunting Head-knowledge. It is not the Wisdom from above, by which alone God, and the Things of God are to be *known*; that is, *experienced*. These are out of the Reach of Arts, Languages, and Sciences, and are discovered only by the Manifestation of the Spirit of *Christ* in the Heart. “ In *whom* are hid all Col. ii. 3.
 “ the Treasures of Wisdom and Knowledge.” Yet though the World by all its admired and celebrated Wisdom, knows not God, there is a Wisdom communicated by which he is known. “ For God,” saith Holy Writ, “ who com- 2 Cor. iv.
6, 7.
 “ manded the Light to shine out of Darknes,
 “ *both shined in our Hearts*, to give *the Light*
 “ *of the Knowledge* of the Glory of God in the
 “ Face” (or inward Appearance) “ of Jesus
 “ Christ.” The Apostle adds, “ We have this
 “ Treasure in earthen Vessels,” (we enjoy it
 now whilst in these Bodies of Clay) “ that the
 “ Excellency of *the Power* may be of God, and
 “ not of us.”

This luminous and excellent Power operates upon the humble thankful Acceptor, so as to open an Understanding of what he reads, both in Scripture and other experimental Writings, often giving him to feel *that* concerning which he reads, and rendering it of improving Effect to him. But he who rejects the Means, can never attain the End. He who refuses or flies from the Light of Life, when it offers itself to him by Reproof and Conviction, not believing it to be of God, nor receiving it as such,
 stops

Mat. xiii.
58.
Mark vi.
5, 6.

stops its Operation, prevents it from opening itself to him, and enlarging in him. For *the unbelieving Heart shuts up its own Way*, and therefore remains insensible of the internal Power of the Saviour.

4. What Man upon Earth can say, he has not had Convictions? Or, that he has had them without any Sense of them? Who could have a Sense of them, and not distinguish it from the Efforts of his own Reason; not distinguish the Reprover from the Reproved? Unfelt Convictions are Impossibilities. In what Manner is the Work of Renovation known, without any Perception of it in its Progress? Did the Apostle *Paul* so pathetically describe the painful States he had travelled through, and the opposite Powers engaged within him, without ever having a certain Sense of them? Or is the Coolness of his Head, and the Soundness of his Judgment now to be arraigned, and are his Christian Experiences to be treated, only as the Issues of an enthusiastic or distempered Fancy?

How could any witness *Repentance unto Life, Remission of Sins*, and the *Times of Refreshing* from the Presence of the Lord, without an inward Sense of them? Were all the Cries, the Pantings and Thirstings after the Divine Presence, uttered by the sacred Writers *without a Sense* of that Want; and were all their triumphant Rejoicings in the Consolation of his Presence, expressed under *a total Insensibility* of it? Were the kindly Fruits of the Spirit, and the Comforts of the Holy Ghost *unfelt* by those who enjoyed them? Who can affirm these Absurdities?

Where

Where can such blind Leaders bring their blind Followers to? Those who turn their Backs on the Light, must walk in Darknefs. It is the sole Property of the Spirit of Chrift, the Light of Men, to make true Discoveries to the Mind, both refpecting itfelf, and every Thing elfe that concerns it. Hence he is rightly ftyled *the Sun of Righteoufnefs*; the fame Thing to the Soul of Man, that the Sun in the Firmament is to his Body. The one is *the Light without*, the other *the Light within*; and therefore is properly fo denominated.

5. It is the unbelieving unrenewed Man, unacquainted with the effectual Operation of this Heavenly Principle, that unwittingly rejects and difparages it, and thereby contributes to keep both himfelf and others in Blindnefs concerning it, and Prejudice againft it. “ The 1 Cor. ii. 14. natural Man,” faith the Apoftle, “ receiveth not the Things of the Spirit of God, for they are Foolifhnefs unto him, neither can he know them, becaufe they are fpiritually difcerned.”

What! faith the mighty Man of Reafon, muft I put out my Eyes in order to fee? Muft I lay afide and renounce my Reafon, to obtain a better Underftanding? It is impoffible, abfurd and prepofterous. Very true; and it is equally true, that no fuch Abfurdity is required. It is neither right Reafon, nor the proper Ufe of Man’s Reafon, that is objected to and advifed againft. For right Reafon is Truth, and is ever correfpondent with the inward Motions of the Spirit of Truth; and Man’s rational Faculty is what renders him capable of receiving divine Influence and Inftruction, without which it is
impoffible

impossible to conceive he could be a fit Subject for it; and was his Reason in such a perfect State, as to merit the Name of *right Reason*, he would not stand in such absolute Need of it. But it evidently appears, from the various Biasses and Prepossessions Men are generally under, the Weakness and Mutability of their Understandings, and the innumerable and irreconcilable Differences amongst them, especially the learned and leading Part of Mankind, that human Reason is far from being always agreeable to right Reason, which is unchangeably true. What is cautioned against therefore, is the setting up human Reason above its due Place in Religion, making it the Leader instead of the Follower of Revelation, the Teacher, instead of the Learner; and esteeming it vested with a Kind of *Self-sufficiency*, independent of the Direction and Help of God's Holy Spirit.

We are not required to *lay aside* our Understandings, either in order to, or under the Influences of the Spirit; but, as prudent and docile Scholars, to submit them to the necessary Instruction and Improvement of that infallible Master of Infinite Wisdom and Knowledge, who is the * universal Teacher of his People; that we may be enabled rightly to obey and worship him *with the Spirit, and with the Understanding also*. The Spirit of God, and a right Understanding must infallibly concur.

1 Cor. xiv.
15.

As the Light of the Sun is so agreeably dispensed by the Sovereign Wisdom, that it doth not put out or blind Men's Eyes, but *assists to the*

* Isa. liv. 13. Jer. xxxi. 34. John vi. 45. Heb. viii. 10, 11. and x. 16.

the proper Use of them ; so the Divine Illumination and Influence is administered by the same Wisdom in such due Degrees, that it neither banishes Man's Reason, nor deprives it of its Utility, but restores it to its full and proper Use in Religion, by dispelling the Fogs of Prejudice and Passion, giving it a clear Sense of Duty, and furnishing Ability to perform it. The Holy Men of God were not deprived of their Understandings, *when they spoke and wrote* 1 Pet. i. 21. *as they were moved by the Holy Ghost*, but found them illuminated and highly improved by it. They were not used by the Spirit as *senseless Machines*, nor remained *as Vegetables*, imperceptive of the Virtue arising in, and enlarging them. Their Faculties were brightened, and raised to an higher Pitch of Usefulness, than could ever have been reached by them, whilst unassisted by the Power of Divine Grace. With good Reason therefore, hath one of the inspired Writers given this necessary Exhortation, "Trust in the Lord with all thine Heart, and Prov. iii. 5. "lean not unto thine own Understanding." And he further saith, "He that trusteth in his Ibi. xxviii. 26. "own Heart, is a Fool."



C H A P. VII.

1. *Whence true Religion ariseth.* 2. *How God is to be known according to the New Covenant. Of whom the Body or Church of Christ is composed, and the Life it enjoys.* 3. *Whence this Life is received.* 4. *That which brings forth the New-birth must maintain it.* 5. *True Religion always essentially the same. Exterior Institutions only Super-additions to lead the Darkened and Degenerate towards it.* 6. *Man has no Pretension to Merit, but through Faithfulness, is graciously allowed a filial Claim.* 7. *The Nature of God's Covenants with Man.*

Gal. v. 6. 1. **N**OTWITHSTANDING too many are taught to imagine Importance and Efficacy, in Mode, Ceremony, Sign and Shadow, the Mint, Anise and Cummin of the legal Dispensation; yet it is certain, that “in Jesus Christ, neither Circumcision availeth any Thing, nor Uncircumcision, but Faith which worketh by Love.” Neither the Practice, nor Difuse of Forms and Rituals, are of any Availance with God. But the first may more than unprofitably busy their Practisers, if they are so dangerously deceived, as to place Confidence either in their own Performances, or those of their Leaders. The Religion of the true Christian consisteth not in Form, but Substance, and ariseth not from the Activity of human Reason, Imagination, or Opinion, but from an Heart-felt Sensation of Divine Love in the Light of Life. Its Foundation is no less than *the immediate Administration of God's Holy*

Holy Spirit to the Spirit of Man. This shews unto Man *what his Thoughts are*, what himself, Amos iv. 13. and what the Lord is, so far as properly concerns him. It opens the Understanding, and directs the Duty of the obedient; “for the Jer. x. 23. Way of Man is not in *himself*; it is not in Man that walketh to direct his Steps.” It is *the Light of the Lamb* which sheweth the Way of Salvation; the *one great Light* appointed to rule the Day, or spiritual Dispensation of Christianity; wherein *the Nations of them which* Rev. xxi. 14. *are saved must walk.*

2. Men in their natural State may, by Reading and Study, collect Abundance of Notions concerning the Supreme Being; but as Light discovers all Things, yet cannot be really known but by its own Appearance; so God, who, in the most perfect, and superlative Sense, *is Light*, can only be truly known by his own 1 John i. 5. immediate Manifestation. What is ordinarily called the Knowledge of God, is but a Series John xvii. 3. of Apprehensions concerning his Essence, his Attributes, and his Providence; but what our Saviour called so, is the real experimental Sense of his *Life*. “*This is Life eternal*, that they might *know thee* the only true God, and “Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent.” Truly to know him, is to participate of the quickening Sense of his Life, through the communicated Influence of his eternal Spirit. Thus to know him, is to partake of the *New Covenant*, or *true Gospel Dispensation*; for *therein* it is declared, “They shall *all know me* from the Jer. xxxi. 34. “least of them to the greatest of them. Accordingly the living Christian has a *certain Sense* of Divine Life in his own Breast, which affords

affords him Instruction, Strength and Comfort, in such a Manner, as he waits in Faithfulness upon it, that he is under no absolute Necessity to lean upon the Teachings of other Men; yet when they come in a Degree of the same Life, he accepts them as instrumentally from God.

This *Life of God* in Christ, is the very Soul of Christianity; without which the best Forms and highest Professions are but as Members of a dead Body, unavailable and unacceptable.

1 John v. 12. "He that hath the Son *hath Life*, and he that hath not the Son of God *hath not Life*."

John xiv. 19, 20. "Because I live," saith he, "ye shall live also."

"*At that Day ye shall know*, that I am in my Father, and *you in me*, and *I in you*." It is because he lives in, and communicates of his Life to his spiritual Followers, that they live also. Of these the true Church, the adopted Body of Christ, under all Denominations, is composed. These alone are his peculiar *Heritage*, or *Clergy*. This Ecclesiastical Body of Christ, is a living Body, rendered such by the

Col. iii. 4. Inspiration of his Life. He is the Life common to all his true Members. By his vital Influence he communicates a living Sense of Truth to them, inclines them to himself, and inspires them both with the Desire and Power of Obedience, and as they advance in Faithfulness, he favours them with increasing Tastes of Divine Grace and Love, the Savour of the Holy Uction, and the indwelling Virtue and

Eph. iv. 4. Glory of his Heavenly Presence. "There is one Body, and one Spirit." Was there not one and the same Spirit throughout the whole Church, it could not be one Body, nor a living

In Joh. Tract. 26. Body. "*Non potest vivere Corpus Christi nisi*"
"de

“ *de spiritu Christi,*” saith *Augustine*: *The Body of Christ cannot live but by the Spirit of Christ.* He who partakes not of the same Spirit with the Head, is no true Member of the Body. His spiritual Influence is the precious Blood, or Spring of Life which renders all his Members living, and what gives Life gives a Sense of that Life ; but though their Life is *most surely* Col. iii. 3. *known to themselves,* it is *hid with Christ in God,* from the Knowledge of those who remain unquickened by it ; and hence ariseth all their Opposition to it.

3. We are all by Nature Strangers to this Divine Life, and we cannot, by any Means, obtain it for ourselves. It is not of Man's Acquirement, but God's Communication ; and as far out of the Reach of the most Learned, as of the most Illiterate. It is hid from the Wise and Prudent (in their own Eyes) and revealed to those who are as Babes (to the World's Wisdom.) It is not the high Learned, but the Humble that God teaches, and the Meek that he guides in the Paths of Truth and Judgment. Every one's Eye therefore ought to be humbly to God alone, and not to be fixed upon the Wise, the Scribe, the Disputer of this World ; for *God hath,* by the powerful Simplicity and Purity of his Gospel Dispensation, *made foolish* 1 Cor. i. 20. *the Wisdom of this World.* Yet so fond is the World of *its own Wisdom,* that it has in great Measure detruded the Cross of Christ, and true spiritual Religion, and erected and supported *this Idol* in its Room. After this Image the World has wondered, and indeed it hath been a Means wonderfully to blind, ensnare and deceive its Worshipers, whose Faith stands in
the

1 Cor. ii. 5. *the Wisdom of Men, and not in the Power of God*; and is therefore the Reverse of the Faith of the Gospel.

4. From a due Consideration of the debased and corrupt State of Mankind, since the Fall, and of the great and good End of their Creation, it must evidently appear, that Regeneration hath ever been the *one Thing needful*; a Work essential for all to experience. And as the Birth of the Spirit cannot be brought forth by any Thing but the Spirit, so it must also be preserved in its Growth and Accomplishment by the Spirit. Hence the abiding, or indwelling of the Spirit remains to be of absolute Necessity to the Regenerate, that as their Souls are quickened into the Divine Life by it, they may continue to live, move, and have their Being as Christians therein, and be sustained in a spiritual Union, and blessed Communion with their Maker.

5. The Essentiality of true Religion hath ever been the same, primarily consisting in the Life of God being raised up, and the Love of God shed abroad in the Heart, operating therein to its Renovation, and to every virtuous and benevolent End. Whatever of Externals or Ceremonials have, at sundry Times, been super-added by Divine Direction or Command, were not intended to alter, or unsettle Men from due and constant Attention to *vital spiritual Religion*; but when they were become greatly degenerated from it, and darkened concerning it, the merciful Creator was pleased, by Means suited to their estranged and carnal Condition, to point it out to them, and lead them by Signs and Symbols towards it. Thus the *Mosaic Law* was

was not meant to be the Whole of Religion to the *Israelites*, or to supercede the internal Religion of Grace; but only to be as a *Schoolmaster* ^{Gal. iii. 24.} to bring them to *Christ* in Spirit, in whom all is included and fulfilled, and whose Presence was then with the Faithful amongst them, who had spiritual Communion with him; for, according to Scripture. “ They did all eat the ^{1 Cor. x. 3,} same spiritual Meat, and did all drink the ⁴ same spiritual Drink; for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them; and *that Rock was Christ.*”

It is a vain Thing to imagine, that Religion ever wholly consisted in Mode or Form; or that the All-perfect Lord at any Time dispensed with the Substance for the Sake of the Shadow; or ever made any Alteration therein, by Diversity of Institutions, from arbitrary Will and Pleasure, merely to exercise his Sovereignty, as though Power was a darling Attribute, and more regarded by him than Wisdom, Righteousness, and Goodness; or as though his Attributes could be divided in him. No; he is God, and changeth not. His Law is *his own Spirit of eternal Rectitude*, and his Retribution according to every Man's State and Works. The different Modifications that have appeared amongst Men in Point of Religion, have been occasioned by the different Alterations in the Conditions of Mankind. The All-wise God hath directed some for a Time, in Condescension, for the good End above-mentioned; and divers Combinations of Men have invented and enjoined Abundance more, according to their own carnal Misapprehensions

of spiritual Things, or to advance their own sinister Purposes.

John iv.
14.

Exterior Forms are but temporary Matters. They are no Essentials of true Christianity. The great Author of it represents it *as a Well of Water in Man springing up into everlasting Life*. It radically ariseth from a living, abiding, increasing Principle in Man, of a pure, spiritual and heavenly Nature. As this is cordially embraced, it enlarges in the Soul, expels the Works and Power of Darknefs, and produceth its own genuine Fruits of Humility, Self-denial, Patience, Resignation to God, and Trust in him alone; Righteousness, Holiness, Meekness, Gentleness, Temperance, Goodness, Brotherly-kindness, Charity. It derives its Origin from Heaven, and leads to Heaven. It carries the Soul out of all Formalities and false Rests, up to the Supreme Good himself. It breaks down all our own Self-will, and brings into perfect Resignation to the Divine Will. In this humble contrited Frame, and no other, can we sincerely and truly say, *Thy Kingdom come! Thy Will be done!* For whilst our Wills stand in Separation from the Will of God, we cannot address him in these Terms with Propriety; or *in Spirit and Truth*.

6. The Pride of Man is naturally averse to this abased and broken Situation. It knows not how to submit to be, or to think itself, *nothing*; though it is worse than nothing. It would fain erect and plume itself upon some Importance, some Estimation, or Deserving of its own; yet all its Pretences to *Merit* are false and vain. Man being nothing as such, but what God has made him, and possessing nothing but
what

what he affords him, is wholly God's, and not his own, and is therefore in Duty bound to walk in Obedience to him, every Moment of his Life, which is given him for that End. And seeing Man has fallen short of his Duty, and hath sinned against his Sovereign by Disobedience, it is neither in his Power, by any Thing he can perform, to merit Heaven, nor to purchase Remission for himself. He can neither undo what he has misdone, nor render to his Maker an Equivalent for the Trespases he hath committed against him. But such is the merciful Goodness, and *Free Grace* of God towards his helpless Creatures, that he offers both Forgiveness and Felicity upon the most reasonable Terms of Repentance and Amendment. To the Willing and Obedient, to him who is faithful unto Death, to him that overcometh, through Divine Assistance, are the Promises of eternal Life. Upon the Foundation of these free and voluntary Offers of the Divine Goodness, and Man's Compliance with the Conditions, stands his Title. "Blessed are Rev. xxii.
14.
"they that *do his Commandments*, that they
"may have Right to the Tree of Life, and may
"enter in through the Gates into the City."

7. The Laws and Requisitions of God to Man, are in Scripture often styled *Covenants*. Not meaning that Man has personally bound himself, on his Part to perform the Conditions, but that he is really in Duty as deeply obliged, and as firmly bound to do the Will of his Creator, as if he had voluntarily bound himself in the strongest Obligations possible. The Reason is, Man owes his very Being, and all the Good he receives, spiritual and temporal,

to his Maker, to whom he stands indebted for all, and who therefore hath an unquestionable Right to claim all Affection, Gratitude, and Obedience from him; and more especially as it is all for his own everlasting Advantage. There is also an internal *spiritual Covenant*, a *Divine Connection*, which the Heart of Man feels, in his Faithfulness, to his Creator: The Spirit of Life, in Christ Jesus, which sets free from the Bonds of Sin and Death, and *unites the Soul to its Saviour* in the powerful Covenant of Divine Love. By this, through Faith, it becomes engrafted into Christ; and by Obedience, it remains in him as a Branch in the Vine; or is incorporated with him as its Head;

¹ Cor. vi. 17. for “ he that is joined unto the Lord is one “ Spirit.” Of this vital Union regenerate Souls have a certain Sense, in Proportion to their

¹ John iv. 13. Progress. “ Hereby *know we* that we dwell “ in him, and he in us, *because* he hath given

Ibid. iii. 24. “ us of his Spirit.”—“ Hereby *we know* that “ he abideth in us, *by the Spirit* which he hath “ given us.” Hence it is clear, that the Gift of the Spirit communicates this Intelligence.



C H A P. VIII.

1. *Religion the same both to the Learned and Unlearned—The Holy Spirit requisite to every Man, as the universal Reformer.* 2. *It was such to the Israelites, and* 3. *The best Part of their Divine Legation.* 4. *Why Statutes of an outward and temporary Nature were added.* 5. *They are taught to look through them to Christ, of whose Spirit they partook.* 6. *But it was not dispensed to them in that Degree of Purity and Splendor with which it broke forth at the Christian Æra.* 7. *How this was witnessed to by the Law.* 8. *How by the Prophets.* 9. *The Spirit was in all Ages administered, and the truly Humble favoured with its indwelling.*

1. **R**ELIGION here, and Salvation hereafter, are as much the Concern and Duty of the Illiterate and Ignorant, as of the Wise and Learned. And as those are by much the greater Number, religious Duty must undoubtedly consist in something equally attainable and practicable by all; for God is no Respector of Persons. It cannot lie essentially in literal Knowledge, nor in any peculiar Mode of Education; for these are the Lot of few, in Comparison of the whole of Mankind. Happiness being the End of Man's Creation, and the universal indispensable Concern of every Man, the effective Means of Regeneration and Salvation must be attainable by every Man.

Nothing

Nothing but the Omnipresent, and All-effective Spirit of God can be this Means; for nothing else is universal, nor any Way adequate to the Work. The Spirit of God therefore, being necessary to every Man, is afforded to every Man, by him who with-holds nothing necessary.

This Holy operative Spirit, *Solomon*, under its Influence, with great Propriety, styles *Wisdom*, and represents it, in familiar Language, as calling upon Mankind, *to turn at its Reproofs*, with a Promise, to *pour out its Spirit unto them*. He also impleads those as *Fools* who reject or slight its Reproofs, or Convictions in their Consciences; by which he shews, *it accompanies them even in the Streets and Places of Concourse*. Recounting the great Works of this Spirit of Wisdom, he elsewhere testifies,

Prov. i. “ She preserved the first formed Father of the
 Verse 20, “ World, that was created alone, and brought
 21. “ him out of his Fall.” She was not only his *Preserver* before his Fall, but his Requickener and Restorer out of that Death, he through Transgression fell into; and seeing the whole rational Progeny of *Adam* are naturally under the like Necessity of being born of the Spirit, its Administration is offered to all, in due Degrees, and every Individual in all Ages, who have experienced the New-birth, by which right Reformation is wrought, have known it to be effected by the Operation of the Spirit. This the wise Author above-cited witnesseth, in his Acknowledgment to Almighty Goodness, when he saith, “ Thy Council who hath
 Wisd. ix. “ known, except thou give *Wisdom*, and send
 17, 18. “ *thy Holy Spirit from above?* For so the
 “ Ways

“ Ways of them who lived on the Earth *were*
 “ *reformed*, and Men *were taught* the Things
 “ that are pleasing unto thee, *and were saved*
 “ *through Wisdom.*”

2. Evident Tokens of internal Religion, and the *immediate Manifestations* of the Spirit for that End, appear throughout both the Old Testament and the New. Before the Flood, the old World was favoured with the Manifestation of the Holy Spirit, as it is implied *Gen. vi. 3.* “ My Spirit shall not always strive with,” or rather *in*, “ Man.” For so *Hebreans* say it ought to be rendered. And indeed, where could the Spirit so properly strive as in the Soul of Man, where the Seat of Corruption is, and to which the Suggestions of Evil are applied? And to what End should it strive with them, but to bring them to Repentance and Reformation, and to become, through their Obedience, the Kingdom, or ruling Power of God in them.

Renovation of Heart by the Holy Spirit, and its genuine Fruits of Repentance towards God, Faith in him, and Obedience to him, was the principal and essential Part of Religion also among the *Israelites*. *Deut. xxx. 10.* *Moses* represents the Conditions on the Performance of which they should be entitled to the Promises. “ If thou shalt hearken unto the
 “ Voice of the Lord thy God, to keep his
 “ Commandments and his Statutes, which are
 “ written in this Book of the Law, and if
 “ thou turn unto the Lord thy God, with all
 “ thine Heart, and with all thy Soul.” These are the Terms; first, that they should keep the Law; this was the external and legal Part
 of

Verse 11,
&c.

of their Duty. Second, that *they should turn their whole Hearts and Souls to God*; this was the internal and evangelical Part. He leaves them not here in a State of Uncertainty, but proceeds to shew them to what their inward Attention should be turned. "For," saith he, "this Commandment which I command thee this Day," (or this which I command thee to turn thine Heart unto) "is *not bidden from thee*, neither is it far off. It is not in Heaven that thou shouldst say, who shall go up for us to Heaven, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it and do it? Neither is it beyond the Sea, that thou shouldst say, who shall go over the Sea for us, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it and do it? But the *Word is very nigh unto thee*, in thy Mouth, and in thy Heart, that thou mayest do it." The Apostle assumes and explains this Passage, Rom. x. 6, 7, 8. "The Righteousness *which is of Faith*, speaketh on this wise, "Say not in thine Heart, who shall ascend into Heaven? (that is to bring *Christ* down from above.) "Or, "who shall descend into the Deep?" (that is to bring up *Christ* again from the Dead.) "But what saith it? The *Word* is nigh thee, even in thy Mouth, and in thy Heart. *That is the Word of Faith which we preach.*"

By this Explanation of the Apostle, it appears, 1st, That besides the Law, *Moses then* preached to *Israel the same Words of Faith*, which himself, and his evangelical Brethren did. 2d, That *this Word is Christ* in Spirit, calling for Attention and Obedience in the Heart, or Conscience, of Man, in order to effect his Restoration and Salvation. 3d, This

is not a local, or temporary, but an inward Visitation of the Saviour of Mankind, by his Spirit in the Heart.

The Word of Faith is the Word of Truth, the Word of the everlasting Gospel; and not a Composition of Letters. The Term *Word*, like many other Words, is used in various Senses; as a Speech or Saying, an Engagement, a Report, a Command, an Exhortation, an Instruction, &c. because these are composed of Words. And as Men use to convey *their Sense* to one another by Words, so God conveys *his* to Men by Christ, who is peculiarly and emphatically styled in Scripture, the *Word of God*; and as the Way Men receive Words from the Mouths of one another is by *Hearing*, so the Manner by which the Soul receives internal Instruction, Reproof, &c. from the Holy Spirit, is metaphorically called *Hearing*. Thus Faith, which is *the Gift of God*, is said to come by *Hearing*, and *Hearing by the Word of God*. That is, I apprehend, the *internal Sense* itself is opened in the Soul, as well as *Subjects* communicated, by the Spirit of Christ.

3. Hence we see, the *Divine Legation* to the *Jews*, consisted not in the outward written Law only. Nor were they kept in Ignorance of inward spiritual Religion, or of a future State of Rewards and Punishments. For, if so, to what Purpose did *Moses* press the Consideration of their latter End upon them, with so much Fervency? “O that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their *latter End*.” What material Consideration should their latter End, or Time of Death, be of, to such as know no better but

John i. &
Rev. xix.
13.

Rom. x.
17.

Deu. xxxii
29.

but that it would be the Period of their Existence? Or why should he *command* their Attention to the *living Word of Faith, Christ* in the Heart, as well as to the written Code? He was an eminently inspired Prophet, and well knew that Salvation is *by Christ alone*; and that his inward spiritual Law, is as preferable to the exterior one, as the Substance is to the Shadow. Obedience to the outward temporal Law, had outward and temporal Promises; but Obedience to the inward spiritual Law, hath Promises of an internal and eternal Nature. By the Works of the first, no Man could be justified; but by the Operation of the last, Sanctification is wrought, and Salvation experienced. *Moses* was a Type of Christ, and the temporal Law, with its temporal Rewards, a Type of the Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus, and its eternal Recompense.

4. But it may be queried; if the spiritual Law was always afforded, what Occasion was there for the Addition of temporal Statutes? Answer, The *Israelites*, by living under Servitude to a most superstitious and idolatrous People, were become prone to Superstition and Idolatry themselves. “They were mingled among the Heathens,” saith the Psalmist, “and learned their Works; and they served their Idols, which were a Snare unto them.” Out of this Idolatry they were to be brought, and by their Obedience to the only true God, were to become an Example to the Nations round them, to influence their Return likewise. Tho’ all had the Word nigh in the Heart, yet having lost the right Sense of what it is, the Law was added,

added, *because of their Transgression* and Corruption till the coming of Christ in the Flesh. Gal. iii. 19.

Seeing their habitual Attachment to the Forms and Superstitions of *Paganism*, was too strong to admit of their being willingly and clearly brought out of them at once, Divine Wisdom condescended to meet them in the State they were in, and to proceed gradually with them, by allowing them some Forms and Ceremonies like to those they had been inured to; but more regular and significant. The Supreme Lord of the Universe first observes to them, “ I am the Lord thy God which have Exod. xx. brought thee out of the Land of *Egypt*, “ out of the House of Bondage;” and then commands, “ Thou shalt have no other Gods “ before me.” Thus he draws their Attention off from the Idols of the Heathen, and places it wholly upon himself, as the sole Object of their Adoration and Obedience. And to give one Instance for all, as the Heathens, whose Manners they had imbibed, were accustomed to swear by their false Gods, he did not see fit to prohibit all solemn Oaths at once, but confined them to swear by himself alone, exclusive of the *Pagan* Idols; not requiring the perfect Practice of the Christian Precept, *Swear not at all, neither by Heaven, nor by the Earth, nor by any other Oath*, of them, whilst not in a Christian State, nor under its clear Dispensation; but only entering them into the Path appointed for them towards it, and to prepare the Way for its Establishment. Thus he made the Law a temporary Expedient, to bring them gradually towards the Practice of that perfect Religion, he intended in due Season to

to introduce, and to set up in its Purity, for all Men to come into, and to walk in.

5. In the mean Time, the Sovereign Wisdom was pleased to sound an Alarm, and set up an Ensign to the rest of Mankind, amongst the Descendants of *Israel*. He wrought Wonders for their Deliverance and Support; and, besides many excellent moral Precepts, dispensed to them *a Form of Knowledge and of the Truth in the Law*; symbolically denoting the Nature and Manner of Redemption and Salvation through his Son, by many significant Types, Allegories, and Similitudes, accommodated to the religious Modes, and Apprehensions they had espoused; which, though Semblances of a distant, because of an exterior Kind, yet were intended, and wisely adapted to be to the superstitiously disposed, as *a Schoolmaster* to lead them gradually to Christ: That is, to the Knowledge of Christ, then to come outwardly as a propitiatory Sacrifice for the Sins of Mankind, and also to the Knowledge of Christ within, the Hope of Glory, as the actual Sanctifier and Saviour of Men. For though *they were all baptized unto Moses in the Cloud*, or dipped into his exterior Dispensation *as under a Vail*; yet the Spiritually-minded amongst them, were enabled to penetrate through the Vail to the internal Reality, and “did” as before observed,

“all eat the same *spiritual Meat*, and did all “drink the same *spiritual Drink*; for they “drank of that *spiritual Rock* that followed “them, and *that Rock was Christ*.”

Still further to assist them, Divine Goodness, at Times, inspired divers of the most regenerate, and most devoted of both Sexes, with
the

Rom. ii.
20.

Gal. iii.
24.

I Cor. x.
2.

I Cor. x.
2, 3, 4.

the Spirit of Prophecy, and engaged them to preach the Necessity of Righteousness and Holiness to them, and to direct their View, through the Figures and outward Similitudes of the ceremonial Law, to the Truth signified by them, and plainly to instruct them in, and exhort them to inward and spiritual Religion; which was the ultimate Intent of the *Mosaic*, and every other Dispensation of God to Mankind. For the Rituals of the Law were not instituted to *superfede*, but to *serve*, as an Index to the Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus.

I do not apprehend, that the Mystery of Godliness, and its internal Life and Virtue, was ever intended by Divine Wisdom to be concealed from Mankind; but was always held forth, though sometimes obscurely under typical Forms, on Account of the Numbers of degenerate Minds, who were too much prepossessed and darkened, to behold the Splendor of the Gospel in its clear Manifestation. For, throughout all Generations, to as many as rightly *received Christ, he gave Power to become* John i. 12, *the Sons of God*; yet the spiritual powerful Gospel of our Lord, was not so publicly promulgated, without some Kind of ceremonial Shadows, till the full Display of the Christian Dispensation, at the Time of the *Jewish* Feast of *Pentecost*, when the Disciples, waiting together in Obedience to the Command of Christ, were according to his Promise, baptized with his one true permanent Baptism; that of the Holy Ghost, which fulfils and supercedes all other Baptisms, and remains the standing Ordinance of God to his Church for ever.

Eph. iii.
5, 6.

ever. Then by Revelation was the Mystery conspicuously and powerfully disclosed, “ which,” saith the Apostle, “ in other Ages was not made “ known unto the Sons of Men, as” (or in the same Degree) “ it is now revealed unto his “ Holy Apostles and Prophets, *by the Spirit* ; “ that the *Gentiles* should be *Fellow-heirs*, and “ of the same Body, and Partakers of his Promise “ in Christ by the Gospel.”—“ For now the “ Righteousness of God *without the Law*, is “ manifested, being witnessed by the Law and “ the Prophets.”

Rom. iii.
21.

Heb. ix.
26.

Ibid. x. 4.

Heb. x.
14.

7. The Law witnessed to the Gospel, 1st, by its various Offerings and Sacrifices, pointing out, and keeping in Remembrance, that the Messiah should come in the Flesh, in order “ to put away Sin by the Sacrifice of himself.” This was the real Use of the Sin and Trespass-offerings ; for, “ It is not possible, that the “ Blood of Bulls and Goats should take away “ Sins.” No ; they had Reference to the precious Blood of Christ, both corporeal and spiritual, who “ by one Offering, hath perfected “ for ever them that are sanctified,” thereby putting a final Period to the legal Sacrifices. 2d, The Law witnessed to the Gospel, by its divers Sprinklings, Washings, and Purifications, which had no more Efficacy towards the Removal of Sin and Guilt, than the Blood of Bulls and Goats ; but must be understood to denote the Necessity of real Holiness, and to signify the spiritual Administration of Christ, who *gave himself for us, that he might redeem us* (not only from Guilt and Condemnation) but also *from all Iniquity*, the Cause of them, and *purify unto himself a peculiar* (or sanctified) *People,*

Tit. i. 14.

People, zealous of good Works. This he doth Ibid. iii. 5.
by the washing of Regeneration, and the renewing
of the Holy Ghost.

8. The Prophets witnessed to the Gospel,
 1st, by their predictive Declarations concern-
 ing the Coming, Sufferings, and Offices of the
 Messiah. 2d, By instructing the People in the
 Necessity of internal, essential, effectual Reli-
 gion, in Preference to the written Law, even
 during the Time that stood in Force, as that
 weightier Part and superior Duty, which ever
 necessarily remains throughout all Generations.

Samuel saith, "To obey is better than Sacri- 1 Sam. xv. 22.
 "fice." *Hosea*, "I desired Mercy, and not Hof. vi. 6.
 "Sacrifice," (or not in Comparison with it)
 "and *the Knowledge of God* more than Burnt-
 "offerings." *David* acknowledges to the
 Lord, "Thou desirest not Sacrifice, else would Psal. li. 16,
 "I give it: Thou delightest not in Burnt- 17.
 "offering. The Sacrifices of God are a broken
 "Spirit: A broken and a contrite Heart, O
 "God, thou wilt not despise." In his pathetic
 Address to the Almighty, Verse 6, he saith,
 "Thou desirest Truth in the inward Parts;"
 and Verse 10, he prays, "Create in me a clean
 "Heart, and renew a right Spirit within me."
Micah queries, "Will the Lord be pleased Micah vi. 7, 8.
 "with Thousands of Rams, or with ten
 "Thousands of Rivers of Oil? Shall I give
 "my First-born for my Transgression, the
 "Fruit of my Body for the Sin of my Soul?"
 And then answers; "He hath shewed thee,
 "O Man, what is Good; and what doth the
 "Lord require of thee, but *to do justly, to love*
 "*Mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?*"
Moses exhorteth the Children of *Israel*, to cir- Deut. x. 16.
cumcise

- circumcise the Foreskin of their Heart*, and told them, "The Lord thy God will *circumcise* *thine Heart*, and the *Heart* of thy Seed, to love the Lord thy God with all thine Heart, and with all thy Soul." Here he shewed them, *though they had received the Sign of Circumcision*, the Reality most required was *that of the Heart in the Spirit*; which is the Work of Regeneration, the Christian Circumcision of the Apostle, who asserts, "He is not a *Jew* who is one outwardly, neither is that Circumcision which is of the Flesh, but he is a *Jew* who is one inwardly, and Circumcision is that of the Heart, *in the Spirit*, and *not in the Letter*." He also observes to the *Colossians*, that *in Christ* they were circumcised "with the Circumcision made *without Hands*, in putting off the Body of the Sins of the Flesh, by the Circumcision of Christ."

That the Necessity of the Knowledge and Love of God, and of a Change from Sin to Holiness, by the internal Circumcision of the Spirit, was both taught and pressed upon the *Jews*, as *that* without which the Observance of the Law would little avail them; nay, the Prophet *Isaiab* plainly shews, that the latter without the former, rendered the Practice of it, though divinely instituted, abominable even to its Institutor.

9. Regeneration, or the Circumcision of the Heart in the Spirit, being always required, the Spirit by which alone it is wrought, must have been always dispensed to Mankind for that End. This is the gracious Gift of the Father Almighty, through the Redeemer, to whom the Psalmist saith, "Thou hast ascended on high;

Ibid. xxx.
6.

Rom. iv.
11.

Ibid. ii. 28,
29.

Col. ii. 11.

Isa. i. 11.
to 19, and
Chap. lxvi
3, 4.

Psal. lxxviii
18.

“ high ; thou hast led Captivity captive ; thou
 “ hast received Gifts for Men ; yea, for the
 “ Rebellious also ; *that the Lord God might dwell*
 “ *among them.*” This was the blessed Experience
 of those that humbled themselves under
 his mighty Hand. “ For thus saith the high Isa. lvii. 15
 “ and lofty One that inhabiteth Eternity, whose
 “ Name is Holy, I dwell in the high and Holy
 “ Place, *with him also* that is of a contrite and
 “ humble Spirit, *to revive* the Spirit of the
 “ Humble, and *to revive* the Heart of the
 “ contrite Ones.”



C H A P. IX.

1. *The Mosaic Law a new Form of Theocracy, therefore introduced by miraculous Appearances. The Abolition of the Law, and the setting up of the Gospel in its genuine Purity, was necessarily attended with equal Demonstration of the like wonderful Powers.*
2. *All the primitive Ministers had the Spirit, but their Gifts were different. All were not Workers of Miracles, therefore these were extra Powers, not essential to an inspired Ministry. Inspiration always requisite to true Ministry ; but Miracles not.*
- 3 and 4. *Miracles were temporary Sanctions requisite to the Abolition of the Law, and Institution of the Gospel, but not essential to be continued for its Support, yet under all Dispensations, at Times were occasionally wrought. The Want of them no Proof a Minister is not inspired.*
5. *The Institution of Christianity once confirmed by them, the future Promulgation of its Doc-*

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trine stands not in Need of their continued Repetition. The Excellency of the Gospel consists in its being a Ministration of the Spirit, clear of all exterior Signs and Shadows. 6. True Christians are baptized by one Spirit into one Body. 7. The Primitives not opened at once into the perfect Clearness of the Gospel, but gradually enlightened. 8. Hence many Professors to this Day, mistake the first initiatory Mixture for the complete State of Christianity. 9. This consists in the total Removal of outward Signs and Shadows, and the clear shining of the Sun of Righteousness itself. The Vanity of superseding this by human Learning.

1. **A**FTER the Wonders of Creation and Providence were displayed, in producing and establishing the stupendous System of external Nature, its great Author was pleased, at distant Periods, to shew forth the visible Effects of his miraculous Power amongst the Sons of Men; but when the Time came wherein he saw fit to recal the degenerate World from the Corruptions it was immersed in, by a publick Assumption and Manifestation of his own just Dominion amongst a People *chosen* for that Purpose, he raised up the Children of *Israel* as an Exemplar to the rest of Mankind. He brought them out of their *Egyptian* Bondage by an high Hand, and through many admirable Strokes of his Power; and upon his Institution of the *Mosaic* Law, which being the Introduction of a new Form of *Theocracy*, unknown to the World, it was requisite it should be attended by such extraordinary Marks of Divine Authority, as might be

be sufficient to authenticate and enforce it, as coming from himself. He therefore, on that great Occasion, appeared to the *Israelites* in a Manner answerable to his Almighty Sovereignty ; and also to the Nature and Solemnity of that Law ; which being a Ministration of Condemnation, was ushered in by the most dreadful and astonishing Tokens of Terror ; with Thunderings and Lightnings, Blackness, Darkeness, and Tempest, the Mountain flaming with Fire, the alarming Sound of the Trumpet, waxing louder and louder, and the Voice of Words so terrible, that not only the People, but the whole Mountain quaked exceedingly. This being an obvious, and most solemn Act of the supreme Legislator of the Universe, no less Authority than his own, could either abolish, or alter it, and when the Period arrived, wherein he saw fit to set aside, and supersede this Law of outward and carnal Ordinances, by bringing forward into full View, and *sole Obligation*, the Substance pointed to by it, his spiritual and more excellent Covenant ; it was necessary that it should appear to be done, by clear Demonstrations of the same sovereign Authority, in as publick a Manner, and at the most proper Season for it. Accordingly the gracious Dispensation of the Gospel was introduced by Evidences of Divine Authority equally extraordinary, and equally suited to its placid and salutary Nature.

Besides the numerous Predictions of the Prophets concerning the Messiah, the Advent of his Forerunner the *Baptist*, and the miraculous Conception of our Saviour by the blessed Virgin, witness the many wonderful Works

he performed, the unaccountable Darknefs, and the rending of the Vail of the Temple throughout from Top to Bottom, upon his giving up the Ghost, denoting the Separation, Conclusion, and passing away of all Sign and Ceremony, and the Disclosure of the Substance in Spirit and Truth; his astonishing Resurrection, and that of the Bodies of buried Saints which arose and went into the City; and his visible Ascension, attended with the glorious Ministration of Angels. After all this, at the Time of the *Jewish* Feast of *Pentecost*, annually observed in Memorial of the giving forth of the Law on Mount *Sinai*, the Apostles and Disciples, Male and Female, being assembled together, according to the Lord's Command, the Holy Spirit gave a two-fold Demonstration of its Advent, as the administrative Power of the Christian Dispensation, then to commence without any Mixture of a legal or shadowy Nature; first, by the Appearance of cloven Tongues, as of Fire, which fate upon *each* of them. Second, by filling their Hearts with the Holy Ghost, to such a Degree, that they began to speak with other Tongues, or in other Languages besides their own, as the Spirit gave them Utterance. Indued with Heavenly Wisdom and Power, and inflamed with Divine Love and Fervour, they were now qualified to put in Practice the Commission before given, in a verbal Manner, by the great Lord and Lawgiver. To *divers* of them were likewise added, the miraculous Powers of healing all Manner of Diseases; the Dumb were made to speak, the Deaf to hear, the Lame to walk, the Blind to see; Demoniacs

were

were dispossessed, and the Dead were raised and restored to Life.

But these extraordinary Powers were neither conferred upon all, nor confined to the Apostles only ; yet *a Measure of the same Spirit* was communicated to *every one of them, Women as well as Men* ; otherwise Peter's Application of the Prophecy of *Joel* had not been true. They were *all* filled with the Holy Ghost, but differently gifted, and qualified by it, for different Services, according to the Will and Wisdom of the great Dispenser. “ To one is given by *the Spirit* the Word of Wisdom ; to another the Word of Knowledge by the same Spirit ; to another Faith by the same Spirit ; to another the Gift of Healing by the same Spirit ; to another the working of Miracles ; to another Prophecy ; to another discerning of Spirits ; to another divers Kinds of Tongues ; to another the Interpretation of Tongues. But *all these* worketh that *one and the self same Spirit, dividing to every Man severally as he will.*” 1 Cor. xii. 8, &c.

Hence it appears, that what are commonly called Miracles, are not necessary or essential to Divine Inspiration, but only *adjunctive Operations* of the Spirit thereto, which have been occasionally super-added, and therefore may either totally cease, when the Occasions for which they were added are over, or continue to be used as it shall appear requisite to Divine Wisdom. When therefore the Gospel was so far spread and established, in the Parts then intended, that the End for which those extraordinary Powers were afforded was answered they were gradually withdrawn from the Church ;
which

which was left, in the general, upon its proper and permanent Bottom, the *immediate Inspiration of the Holy Spirit*. No Necessity therefore can be pleaded for the constant Continuance of miraculous Powers, or such a Spirit of Prophecy, as signifies a peculiar Gift of foretelling future Events; but only of those *supernatural Influences*, which are requisite to enlighten, quicken, regenerate, sanctify, bring forth the Fruits of the Spirit in Man, enable him to fill up his Duty, and finally prepare him for a Celestial Mansion. *These* are indispensably necessary to be continued. They are of moral Consideration, and immediately influential to the Preparation and Salvation of every Man, which Miracle and Prediction are not.

3. Notwithstanding manifest Appearances of extraordinary Power were added, both to the Introduction of the Law, and that of the Gospel, they are not to be considered *as Parts* of either, but *as Sanctions* requisite to their Institution; so I believe, some divine Exertions of a miraculous Nature have been evidenced, at Times, under both Administrations, as well as before them; either for the Convincement of doubtful Persons, or to give additional Weight and Authority to the Ministry of some inspired Servants of God, amongst those present with them, or to encourage and confirm them in their Service. Though I doubt not but this hath sometimes been the Case since the first Century, and may remain to be so to the End of Time, for neither the Power nor Goodness of the Almighty is shorted; yet I am also of Opinion, that miraculous Appearances have been less publick, and more sparingly
afforded

afforded since the first Century than before it; which may be in Part owing to the Declension of the professing Churches. I also believe, according to the prophetic Declarations of the Apostles, that under the declined and darkened State of both Teachers and Hearers, many strange Signs, and lying Wonders have been, and still may be suffered to be imposed upon the Credulity of a disobedient People, by false Pretenders, for the Support of a corrupt Interest, and the Aggrandisement of the Conductors. Undoubtedly, those mysterious Delusions have been abundantly more numerous for many Centuries past, than the Exertions of Divine Power in an extraordinary Way.

4. The Continuation of exterior Miracles is not essential to the Ministration of the Gospel; for was it so, Christianity could not subsist without them. Yet, though they are not of absolute Necessity thereunto, they may be occasionally used, or not, as the Sovereign Wisdom sees meet. But that they are still constantly, or periodically continued in any particular Church, as a peculiar Mark of its being the only true Church of Christ, above all others, I find no Warrant to believe. Pretensions of this Kind, naturally put thinking Minds upon looking for a superior Excellency in the Doctrines, and Practices of such a Church; and when they find it abound in Superstition and Pomp, coercive Imposition, proud Hierarchy, Craft, Lucre, and Idolatry, even bordering upon Politheism; for what else is the Adoration of Saints, and Sinners under that Title, by attributing a Kind of Omnipresence, and Influence in the Court of Heaven to them?

When

When they find these, and other monstrous Absurdities in the established Doctrines of such a Church, instead of the Simplicity, Purity, Humility, Love and Life of the Gospel; what can they conclude of those Pretensions, but that they are the deceitful Juggles of Imposture, and the Legends of Folly? The very Ends most of them are calculated to answer, sufficiently evidence their Falsehood, and shew, whatever they are, that they are not Divine.

It doth not appear, that in the primitive Age of Christianity, those who were sometimes attended with miraculous Powers, were always so accompanied in their Ministry; nor that all inspired Ministers were ever enabled to work Miracles in the Sight of the People. Seeing therefore it is evident, that these extraordinary Powers are not essential to an inspired Ministry, they are not the necessary Proofs of it; nor the Want of them an Argument, that a Minister is not inspired. But though these are not essential to Christianity, *immediate Inspiration is constitutionally so.* The Excellency of the Gospel Dispensation is, that it is not a Mixture of Sign and Substance, as that of the *Jews* was, nor a temporary, but a *standing Ministration of the Spirit.*

5. Seeing no further Change of Dispensations is ever to be made, nor any other Doctrine to be preached, but that of our Saviour and his Apostles, which upon its Commencement, received a miraculous Confirmation, sufficient for its lasting Establishment, People are not now to expect, or call for Miracles from those who preach the Christian Doctrine; but to turn to, and attend upon that Divine Principle pointed

pointed out in the Scriptures, as manifested in the Breast of each Individual, the Ministration of Christ in Spirit. This will give the sincere and humble Receiver more clear and particular Demonstration than outward Signs and Tokens could do ; for the Powers whence these proceed, may be disputed, but the internal Evidence of the Light of Christ, the Life of Men, as rightly waited for, and adhered to, leaves no Doubt in the Mind concerning its Divine Nature and Authority. Hence *Robert Barclay* asserts, in the Words of the primitive Protestants, there is no Need now of outward Miracles to avouch the Doctrines of the Gospel ; yet acknowledges, that some did appear upon its Revival in the last Century. But to return.

The Apostle, 2 Cor. iii. shews that the Ministration of the Gospel far excels that of the Law, and that its Excellency stands in its *Spirituality*. Having spoken of the Law, Verse ^{2 Cor. iii.} 7, he subjoins, “ How shall not the *Ministra-* ^{8, 9, 10,} *tion of the Spirit* be rather glorious ? For if ^{II.} “ the Ministration of Condemnation be Glory, “ much more doth the Ministration of Righteousness exceed in Glory. For even that “ which was made glorious, had no Glory in “ this Respect, by Reason of the Glory which “ excelleth. For if that which *was done away* “ was glorious, much more *that which remain-* “ *eth* is glorious.” Why is the Gospel thus super-eminent above the Law, seeing that was a Divine Institution ? Principally, because it is not an outward Code as the Law was, but ^{2 Cor. iii.} an inward Law of Life, “ written, not with ^{3.} “ Ink, but with the Spirit of the living God, “ not

Verfe 6. “ not in Tables of Stone, but in fleſhly Tables
 “ of the Heart; and becauſe it *makes able Mini-*
ſters, not of the Letter, but of the Spirit; for
the Letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth Life.”

Rom. viii. 9. No Man can be a true Chriſtian without the
 Spirit of Chriſt; for, “ If any Man hath not
 “ the Spirit of Chriſt, he is none of his.”

1 Cor. vi. 19. Every Chriſtian ought to experience the
 indwelling of the Spirit. “ Know ye not that
 “ your Body is the Temple of the Holy Ghoſt,
 “ *which is in you, which ye have of God, and*
 “ ye are not your own.”

It is requiſite to every Chriſtian, that he
 ſhould know the Spirit to be his Guide and
 Rom. viii. 14. Leader; for, only “ *as many* as are led by the
 “ Spirit of God, are the Sons of God.”

No Man can be a Sheep of Chriſt without
 a *distinguiſhing Senſe* of the Spirit of Chriſt.
 John x. 14, 27, 4 & 5. “ I am the good Shepherd, and know my Sheep,
 “ and *am known of mine.*”—“ My Sheep *bear*
 “ *my Voice*, and I know them, and they fol-
 “ *low me.*”—“ The Sheep follow him, for
 “ *they know his Voice*, and a Stranger *they will*
 “ *not follow.*” The Voice of Chriſt is the
 Manifeſtation of his Spirit to the Soul.

John iii. Without being born again of the Spirit, no
 Man can enter the Kingdom of God, and
 without the Spirit, no Man can be born of it;
 conſequently the Spirit is altogether as requi-
 ſite to us as it could be to the Primitives. It
 is no more in our Ability to regenerate and
 prepare ourſelves for the Kingdom, than it was
 in theirs. No Powers, natural or acquired,
 in our unregenerate State, are ſufficient for ſo
 great a Purpoſe, and to enable us truly to ſay,
 with the People of God in former Times,
 “ Lord,

“ Lord, thou wilt ordain Peace for us ; for Isa. xxvi. 12.
 “ thou hast wrought all our Works in us.”

Without the Spirit, no Man can be a Minister of the Spirit. The apostolic Direction is,
 “ As every Man hath received the Gift, even 1 Peter iv. 10, 11.
 “ so minister the same one to another, as good
 “ Stewards of the manifold Grace of God.
 “ If any Man speak, let him speak as the
 “ Oracles of God ; if any Man minister, let
 “ him do it as of the Ability which God
 “ giveth ; that God in all Things may be
 “ glorified through Jesus Christ.”

6. Every true Believer and faithful Follower of Christ, in the apostolic Age, received a Portion of the same Holy Spirit which the Prophets and Apostles did, though in less Degrees ; “ for,” saith Paul, “ *by one Spirit* 1 Cor. xii. 13.
 “ *are we all baptized into one Body*, whether we
 “ be *Jews* or *Gentiles*, whether we be bond or
 “ free ; and have been *all made to drink into*
 “ *one Spirit.*” This one Spirit rendered them one Body, and joined them to the one living Head. “ There is one Body and one Spirit, Eph. iv. 4, 5, 6.
 “ even as ye are called in one Hope of your
 “ Calling ; one Lord, one Faith, one Bap-
 “ tism, one God and Father of all, who is
 “ above all, and through all, and *in you all.*”
 Thus, according to the several Measures allotted them, they were all Partakers of the same Holy Spirit, and as it was then, so it is now, and ever must be in the true spiritual universal Church of Christ.

7. The Gospel Sun arose in great Splendor, yet it appeared not in its full Meridian at once, to any. The Openings of Truth in the Minds of the primitive Christians, Apostles as well

as others, were gradual. As they advanced forward in the new Nature, they saw further and further. For a Time, they occasionally circumcised, entered into Vows, anointed with Oil, baptized with *John's* Baptism; all which were of an external and legal Nature. Nay, at first, they perceived not the Holy Ghost was to be given to *Gentiles* as well as *Jews*, though *Joel* had plainly prophesied, it should be poured out *upon all Flesh*. But afterwards, as their Concern continued to press forward, they were led beyond the first initiatory Mixture of Things; they saw clearly and declared, that *the Holy Spirit fell upon the Gentiles*, as well as *Jews*; that *neither Circumcision nor Uncircumcision availeth*; that *a good Conscience ariseth not from the Practice of exterior Rites*; that *the Unction from the Holy One* is altogether sufficient to give Instruction and true Judgment; that the *saving Baptism* is not that which can reach no deeper than the outside of the Flesh, but that of the Spirit, which baptizes the Heart, and produceth *the Answer of a good Conscience* towards God, *by the Resurrection of Christ*, or his spiritual arising in or upon the Soul.

Acts xi. 18

Gal. v. 6.

Heb. ix. 9.

1 John ii.

20, 27.

1 Pet. iii.

21.

8. It is no uncommon Thing to hear the apostolic Age styled the *Infancy* of Christianity; and so it was in Point of Time, and also in Respect to the temporary Continuation of a few Exteriors, not immediately seen through, and afterwards retained for a Season, in Condescension to those new Believers, who had been so much attached to symbolical Practices, they could not readily be brought to disuse them. And, in our Day, many of the present Leaders
and

and Rulers, in divers of the most numerous Churches professing the Christian Name, seem to imagine, that though the Assistance of the Holy Ghost was necessary to the Introduction, and Support of the Christian Religion in primitive Times, it has no Need of it now. It is become so matured by Man's Wisdom and Learning, which had no Share in its Origin, that it is fully capable to go alone. So that *now* it is, in great Measure, become another Thing, and stands upon another Foundation, than formerly. Though it still calls Christ its Head, and accounts itself his Body, it receives no immediate Direction from him, nor feels the Circulation of his Blood, which is the Life and Virtue of true Religion. Thus deservedly incurring the Reproof of the Apostle implied in this Query, " Having begun in the Spirit, Gal. iii. 3. " are ye now made perfect by the Flesh?" In Truth, it too evidently appears, in a general View, the professed Christian Churches, instead of being in the Maturity of Christianity, are greatly in the Decline from that State; or they could not be so insensible, nor durst appear so opposite to the Life of Religion, as to reject and decry the *vital Part* of it, and treat it as *extinct, unnecessary*, or at least *insensibly*, to be now received; as too many of their Leaders and Members do. Surely a Church in this Condition, is properly entitled to that Address of the Spirit, to the degenerate Church of *Sardis*; " *I know thy Works*, that thou hast a Rev. iii. 1. " Name, that thou livest, and art dead." Yet, notwithstanding this seems to be too generally the Case, and that the Religion of many high Professors is little else but real Deism, covered with

with a superficial Kind of Christianity, I hope, and verily believe, there are many living and sensible Members of the Body of Christ in those Churches.

9. The Vitality and Glory of Christianity lies in the clear Administration of the Holy Spirit, without any Vail of legal or ritual Adumbrations. School-learning is but an human Accomplishment, and though very useful as a Servant, is no Part of Christianity. Neither the Acquirements of the College, nor the Formalities of human Authority, can furnish that Humility which fitteth for God's Teaching. Possessed of Arts and Languages, weak People are puffed up with a Conceit of Superiority, which leads from Self-denial and the daily Cross, into Pride and Self-sufficiency; and instead of waiting for, and depending upon the Wisdom and Power of God, into a Confidence in the Wisdom of this World, and a devotional Satisfaction in the Rote of external Forms and Ordinances. Whereas those that

Phil. iii. 3. *worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no Confidence in the Flesh.* And why?

John vi. 63 *Because it is the Spirit that quickeneth; the Flesh profiteth nothing.*

Whosoever deny that the Holy Spirit, and its internal Operations, are now to be sensibly experienced, only demonstrate their own Insensibility thereof. The true People of God in all Ages, have declared their own undoubted Sense of Divine Illumination and Help, and the Apostle, in *Rom. vii. and viii.* before cited, testifies he had a strong, clear, distinguishing Sense of the Holy Spirit throughout its Operations. As it was then, it now is, and must remain

remain to be, so long as Men are upon Earth. The same Work, in due Measure, is absolutely necessary to every one, and the like Sense of it proportionably clear and certain to all who experience Regeneration. No Man can obtain Felicity out of God's Kingdom, nor can any enter the Kingdom without being born of the Spirit, neither is the Work of the New-birth wrought insensibly in any. Whatever *Medium incognitum*, or *unknown Means* Men imagine, insensible Operation is not Regeneration. It is a mere Deception. The Holy Ghost, whether it operate by Words and Instruments, or without them, always comes *in Power*; a Power which gives an undeniable Sense of it, perfectly distinct from, and above all other Powers, and with a Perspicuity, at Times, as far exceeding all natural Lights, as the radiant Sun does the faint Glimmer of the Glow-worm.

This Holy Spirit of Divine Light, and Power of Life, is the great fundamental Principle of the reproached *Quakers*, and the only true saving Principle for all Mankind. It is Christ in Spirit, *a Light to lighten the Gentiles*, Luke ii. 32 and *God's Salvation to the Ends of the Earth*; Acts xiii. who always became, and stands always ready^{47.} Heb. v. 9. to become, *the Author of eternal Salvation to all them that obey him.*



C H A P. X.

1. S. Newton's *Mistake*, in asserting the *Doctrine of the Quakers* centers in the *reprobationary Scheme*. 2. God first sets Man at Liberty, often revisits him by the Spirit of Grace, seeks by all proper Means to prevail with him, without violating the Liberty he affords him, till his continued Backsliding demonstrates he will not turn from his evil Ways, and live. Then his Time of Visitation ceases, and he is given up to his beloved Delusions. 3. God is not the Author of Evil. *Objections from Isaiah and Amos answered*. 4. Men justified in Evil-doing, if God be its Author. What Sin is. It is not the Effect, but the Cause of his Displeasure, and to be placed to Man's Account. 5. The Cause of Man's Salvation. The great Efficient of it. He operates towards it, both immediately, and by the Use of proper Means, all by Grace, through the Faith it communicates, which necessarily produceth good Works, not to be attributed to Man as meritorious. 6. What Calvinism teaches. 7, &c. The modern Fatalists somewhat refine upon this, but unavoidably center in the same Absurdity and Falsehood. This largely shewn in Variety of Matter to the End of this Chapter.

1. **H**AVING endeavoured plainly to shew what the leading Principles of the People called *Quakers* are, and that they are the genuine Doctrines of true Christianity, I shall now proceed to take more particular Notice of
divers

divers material Parts of my Opponent's Treatise.

His insisting that the *Quakers* Doctrine centers in the reprobationary Scheme, and that *Barclay* was *as much* a Predestinarian as *John Calvin*, is merely his own Mistake. He grounds it not upon their Doctrine, but what he improperly imagines to be so. Page 14, he says, "*Barclay* and his Friend *Speak of no Divine Assistance which enables Persons to be passive*, that the Light within may operate and save." Whereas, in my Observations, P. 82, I quote *Barclay*, saying, "As Man is *wholly unable* of himself to work with the Grace, *neither can he move one Step* out of the natural Condition, *until the Grace of God lay hold upon him*, so, it is possible to him to be passive, and not resist it, as it is possible for him to resist it." That is, *by the Power of Divine Grace laying hold of, or influencing the Spirit of Man, it first becomes possible for him to be passive, and not resist its Operation*; which is the *first Step* Man takes in the Way of Salvation. "Without me," John xv. 5 saith our Saviour, "ye can do nothing." I therefore added, "Man cannot set *one single Step* towards his Salvation, without the Assistance of the Grace of God, as the *first moving, and continually enabling Cause*, both of the *Will* and the *Deed*." So that though *Passiveness* is the Beginning of the Work, he is *previously disposed to it* by Virtue of the Holy Spirit. This manifests the Untruth of S. N.'s Assertion, P. 212, and the Nullity of all his Reasonings from it, that "the Apolo-
gift will not suffer the Honour of the first
G " Step

“ Step of the Soul towards Salvation to be
 “ ascribed to the Light or Grace within.”
 On the contrary we attribute the Whole of
 Man’s Salvation to it, first and last, without
 at all placing Man’s Destruction to the Account
 of his Maker; which *John Calvin* directly
 doth.

What our Doctrine teacheth is, 1. That
 Man has no Ability to save himself, is not
 naturally in a State of equal Freedom to Good
 or Evil at his Pleasure, nor is in Possession of
 that Faith which is necessary to his Salvation.
 2. That the Redeemer affords a Manifestation
 of his Spirit to the Soul of every Man, by
 which, at Seasons, he checks his corrupt Inclina-
 tions, stops them in their Career, and puts
 it in his Power to reflect upon his present Con-
 dition, and *become passive* to the Operation of
 this inward Principle. If he resist it not, but
 stand in Submission, it takes further Hold of
 him, gives him so *to believe in it*, as to suffer
 it in some Degree to unite with, abide in, and
 operate upon him. In this Situation, he feels
 Strength and Comfort spring up from it, which
 increaseth his *Faith and Trust* therein, and
 gradually enables and engages him to *become*
active; that is, to join heartily in Concurrence
 with its Operations, and to proceed from Faith
 to Faith, and from one Degree of Grace to
 another, till he attain to know the New-birth
 of the Spirit, and to participate in Degree of
 the glorious Light, Life, and Nature of the
 Heavenly Kingdom.

2. God hath made Man a reasonable Crea-
 ture, and therefore requires a willing Obedi-
 ence of him, in order to the high Reward of
 eternal

eternal Felicity ; and if he repeatedly visits all with the Reaches of his Grace, and continues Time after Time to convict, persuade, and wooe, as the Scriptures declare, that he may prevail upon him to come to Repentance ; doth he not go as far as reasonable Creatures can claim, without violating the rational Liberty he affords ? Let Man but yield Obedience to his Convictions, and see if he can charge his Creator with Partiality, or hard Measure. It is the unprofitable and unprofiting Servant that doth this.

Education and Tradition do certainly prepossess, and give a Bias to the Mind against every Doctrine different to those it hath been taught ; but the Divine Light, at Times, darts in upon the Soul unawares, as quick as Lightning, penetrates through all its Darknes and every false Colour, disturbs it in its polluted Rests, and carnal Gratifications, shews its Bondage under them, and inspires the secret Wish and heaving Sigh to be delivered, attended with some Degree of Resolution against them. This being the opening of Divine Light upon the Mind, is called *the Day of God's Visitation*, the *Time of Grace unto Man* ; wherein *Life and Death* are distinguished in him, and Liberty is not only given him to choose Life, which he could not do before, but also a suitable Measure of Ability to love and cleave to the *Grace* he is visited with, and thereby to come to Repentance, and be saved. For this *Grace* Tit. ii. 11. is the Spirit of the Saviour, and *brings the Power of Salvation in it*.

These merciful Visitations of Divine Grace are often repeated, by Night as well as by Day.

Job xxxiii. 14, &c. “ God,” saith inspired *Elibu*, “ speaketh once, yea twice, yet Man perceiveth it not, in a Dream, in a Vision of the Night, when deep Sleep falleth upon Man in Slumberings upon the Bed. Then he openeth the Ears of Men, and sealeth their Instruction; that he may *withdraw Man from his Purpose, and hide Pride from Man.*” He then proceeds to shew, how he operates upon the submissive Soul, in the Work of Repentance and Mortification, and what shall be its Issue. Afterwards he recapitulates the Whole in these comprehensive Terms. “ He looketh upon Men, and if any say, I have sinned, and perverted that which was right, and it profited me not; he will deliver his Soul from going into the Pit, and his Life shall see the Light. Lo, *all these Things worketh God oftentimes with Man, to bring back his Soul from the Pit to be enlightened with the Light of the Living.*”

The great FATHER OF MERCIES, is pleased to continue his gracious Visitations from on high to backsliding Men, till they are become so determined in Wickedness, and so habitually united to its Servitude, that like the Servants in *Exodus* xxi. 5, 6. they *will not* be freed from it. Then Night comes upon them, *the Day of their Visitation ceases*; for God will *not always strive* with those, who have been long and *often reprov'd, and still harden their Necks*, to no Purpose; but after long Forbearance he withdraws the Reaches of his merciful Loving-kindness, and suffers them to incur that dreadful Sentence, “ He that is unjust, let him be unjust still; and he that is filthy, let him be filthy still.” When

Prov. xxix
1.

Rev. xxii.
11.

When Persons are thus judicially hardened, and given up to their own Hearts Lufts, and beloved Delufions, and left in a State of Infenfibility of the Divine Principle, they may blindly mistake it for Peace and Security. To fuch, Confcience becomes, for the prefent, obfcured, and as a Book fhut up, wherein they cannot read; but in the Day of the righteous Retribution of the great Judge of Quick and Dead, this hidden Volume will again be unfolded, by him who openeth, and none can fhut, and a juft Diftribution made to every one according to what is written therein (for it will prove either a Book of Life or of Death to every Man) to them who, by patient Continuance in well-doing, have fought the Glory of God, their own Salvation, and the Good of others, Immortality and eternal Life; but to thofe who have continued in Difobedience and Rebellion againft God, Tribulation and Anguifh both inexpressible and interminable.

3. Can any reasonable Creature think it poffible, that the fame Spirit and Power of Goodnefs which condefcended to take our low Nature upon him, fuffer in, and facrifice that Nature whilft connected with it, a *Propitia-*^{1 John. ii.}
tion for the Sins of the whole World, could ever^{2.} intentionally confign the Majority, or any Part of the fame World, to unavoidable or unconditional Mifery? It appears from his Attributes of Truth, Equity, Wifdom, Mercy, and Goodnefs, impoffible that he fhould either actually oblige any of his Creatures to fin, that they might be miferable; or, when he has created them, to defert them to Sin and Mifery, by entirely with-holding from them that which is
 neceffary

necessary to their Help and Preservation. We therefore rationally conclude, that he doth not only set Good and Evil before Man in their just Distinctions; but at the same Time, enables him to *choose* which he will follow; and further, that he stirs up and assists Man to *desire* after true Felicity, and as he abides in this Desire, he *empowers* him to strive, press, and wrestle effectually for Deliverance and Preservation.

The primary Motions of Volition in the Mind being very nice and delicate, are not easy, if possible, for Men to form a precise Idea of without the Light of God's Spirit; whence some have taken Occasion to charge the different Dispositions of Men towards the Visitations of Divine Grace, to God's Account, by which they render him *the primary Author of Evil*, who by the special Peculiarity of his Essence, is too unchangeably perfect in all his Attributes, ever to warp from perfect Rectitude. But is it not absurd to suppose, that any intelligent Being can *voluntarily* produce what is contrary to its Nature; especially an Omnipotent Existence, whose Power must be irresistible by all Objects and Occurrences? Is not Sin the Transgression of God's Will, and Vice contrary to his Nature? How then could these be produced by an Act of his Will, or be the genuine Fruit of his Power, either mediately or immediately? Can a right Understanding lead any Man to think, that *the Will of God* is possible at any Time to be *contrary to his Nature*?

From Purity, Goodness, and Virtue, no Impurity, Vice, or Evil could naturally arise. But that Text hath been objected, "It is impossible

“ possible but that Offences will come.” True; but whence come they? Not from God, but from that Root of Corruption, which hath entered and overspread the World. Whilst this corrupt Root remains, they will naturally spring from it; and the same Text pronounces, “ Wo unto him through whom they come.” But God saith, “ I create Evil.” And the Isa. xlv. 7. Prophet saith, “ Shall there be Evil in a City, Amos iii. 6. “ and the Lord hath not done it?” Moral Evil is not here intended, but the natural Evil of Pain and Distress, through Hostility, Sickness, Famine, &c. which are the Judgments of God upon Men for Disobedience, and the Commission of moral Evil.

4. To say, *that God originally so constituted and ordered Things, that Evil must necessarily ensue in Consequence of such Constitution*, is to treat him both as *the designing and potential* Author of all Evil. Wherein then are the wickedest Creatures, whether angelical or human, to blame? If they cannot be otherwise than they are, nor act otherwise than they do; in Point of Equity, all their *Wickedness* is justified by the Necessity they are originally subjected to by their Creator; whom this Doctrine renders the real Author of *it*, either immediately or remotely. If God himself laid the Ground-work of all Evil, he must be the Author of all that follows by necessary Consequence upon it.

According to my Apprehension, *Sin consists in the Creatures's preferring the Indulgence of its depraved Nature, to the Obedience of Divine Grace*; which Indulgence leads it to the Abuse of that Grace, and to think, speak and act
against

against the *manifested Will* of its Creator. Neither the Origin, nor Continuance of Sin in the World, can be the Fruit of *God's Will*; for it always brings *his Displeasure* upon the Creature. It is not the Effect, but the Cause of his Displeasure. A Being perfectly Holy, Just, and Good, can neither do Evil, nor Delight in seeing his Creatures do it. It is contrary to his Nature, therefore against his Will, and what he could not suffer to originate without offering Means to prevent it, and shewing his Displeasure with it; nor can he consistently be conceived to extend personal Approbation or Aversion to any, exclusive of the State of the Parties respecting Good and Evil.

That some obey, and others refuse Obedience to the Manifestations of Divine Grace, is certainly true; and we believe, the Cause of this Difference is not of God, but entirely owing to the Man. Let him that doubts it, inquire in his own Conscience. The faithful witness there, by its Condemnations for Evil, will plainly shew him, that the Fault is his own. What Man is there upon Earth without these compunctive Strokes? Who has not, also, felt at Times, Inclinations and Dispositions excited in him towards Virtue and a good Life; and who knows not, that when he followed them, he found Peace in his Obedience; and when he turned from this salutary Pursuit to one of a contrary Nature, he incurred Trouble and Condemnation? Can a reasonable Creature need further Proofs, that both those convicting Reprehensions and Comforts, are the internal immediate Adjudications of a just, good, powerful,

erful, omni-present, all-intelligent Principle? And *what is this but God*; and *for what End doth he thus attend every Soul and Conscience, but that all may come to Repentance, and experience Salvation?*

5. The first moving, true, and proper Cause of Man's Salvation, is the *Goodness and Love of God* to him. The *essential Means* by which he effects it, is the Operation of his own Holy Spirit on the Soul of Man, often immediately, and sometimes instrumentally, by making use of exterior and incidental Things, and working by them as *secondary Means*; such as Preaching, reading the Scriptures, and other good Books, pious Conversation, Worship, Mercies, Distresses, &c. After this Manner it pleaseth Divine Wisdom to exercise the Body in the Service of the Soul, whereby both are bettered divers Ways. It is God by his Holy Spirit, who worketh all Good in Man, both as to the *Will* and the *Deed*. It is by Grace we are saved, through Faith; or in the Way of Faith. That Faith which worketh by the Love of God to the Purifying of the Heart, and the Production of good Works. These are the genuine Fruits of it, and inseparable from it: Therefore without Works we cannot be saved. Yet it is not by the Works that we are saved, as *the Cause* of Salvation to us, but *by Grace*, through the Root of them, the Faith, by which we believe in God, open to, and receive him, cleave to him, trust in him, and so lay hold of eternal Life. This Faith is not our Faculty, but the Gift of God to us. It comes by Grace, the free Grace of God, who is “*not willing that any should perish, but that* ^{2 Pet. iii.} *all*”^{9.}

“ *all* should come to Repentance.” He whose Works are Evil, hath not this *saving Faith*, believe what Propositions he will; for where it is, it necessarily produceth them. This Root is never without its Fruits. “ Shew me thy Faith without thy Works, and I will shew thee my Faith by my Works,” saith the Apostle *James*. Yet these Works do not render us *meritorious* of Salvation, for they are not to be attributed to us, but wholly to him who through his Grace, hath brought us into this blessed State of living Faith wherein they are produced. “ For *by Grace* are ye saved, *through Faith*, and that *not of yourselves*. It is the *Gift of God*. Not of Works, lest any Man should boast: For we are his Workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good Works, which God hath before ordained, that we should walk in them.”

6. The Reprobationary Scheme demonstrates, to what a Pitch of Absurdity, the Minds even of sensible and pious Men may be carried, when they follow their own cloudy Reasonings instead of the Illuminations of the Holy Spirit. *Calvin* asserts that, *by the Ordination and Will of God* Adam fell. *God would have Man to fall*—and that *the highest or remote Cause of hardening is the Will of God*. *Beza* saith, *God hath predestinated not only unto Damnation, but also unto the Causes of it, whomsoever he saw meet*. *Zanchius*, that *God is the first Cause of Obduration*. *Zuinglius*, that *God moveth the Robber to kill*. He killeth, *God forcing him thereunto*. But thou wilt say, *he is forced to Sin; I permit truly that he is forced*. *Piscator*, that *reprobate Persons are absolutely ordained to this*

Jam. ii. 18

Eph. ii. 8,
9, 10.

Chap. 3.
Gen.
1 Inst. C.
18.
S. 1.
Lib. de
Præd.
Lib. de
Prov.
Lib. de
Præd.
De
Eccaut.
Q. 5.
Lib. de
Provid.
C. 3.
Resp. ad
Verft.
Part 1.
P. 120.

this two-fold End; to undergo everlasting Punishment, and necessarily to sin, and therefore to sin, that they may be justly punished. It is a Mystery to me, how the poor Reprobates can be *justly punished*, for Actions they are *Divinely obliged* to commit; or how they can *sin* by necessarily *doing the Will of God*.

7. Our modern Writers of this Class, refine a little from the Barbarism of their Predecessors in Expression, but their Refinements ultimately center in the like Accusation of their Creator. S. Newton often edges about it, yet appears very shy of speaking his Sentiments clearly upon this Point; but I presume we have them in his favourite Author, Jonathan Edwards, M. A. whom he so particularly recommends in his Letter, Page 54. This Author, in his *careful and strict Inquiry into the modern prevailing Notions of that Freedom of Will*, &c. has these Expressions. “ If by the P. 357-8.
Author of Sin be meant the Sinner, the Agent,
 “ or Actor of Sin, or the Doer of a wicked Thing;
 “ so it would be a Reproach and Blasphemy
 “ to suppose God to be the Author of Sin.—
 “ But if by the *Author of Sin* is meant the
 “ Permitter, or not a Hinderer of Sin; and
 “ at the same Time, a Disposer of the State
 “ of Events in such a Manner, for wise, holy,
 “ and most excellent Ends and Purposes, that
 “ Sin, if it be permitted, or not hindered,
 “ will most certainly and infallibly follow : I say,
 “ if this be all that is meant by the Author of
 “ Sin, I don’t deny that God is the Author of
 “ Sin.”——“ It is no Reproach for the Most
 “ High to be thus the Author of Sin. This
 “ is not to be the Actor of Sin, but on the con-
 “ trary,

“ trary, of *Holiness*. What God doth herein
 “ is Holy, and a *glorious* Exercise of the Infi-
 “ nite Excellency of his Nature.”—“ That
 “ it is *most certainly so*, that God is in such a
 “ Manner *the Disposer and Orderer of Sin*, is
 “ evident, if any Credit is to be given to Scrip-
 “ ture; as well as it is impossible in the
 “ Nature of Things to be otherwise.”

I think I have already shewn, in the preceding Part of this Discourse, that it is not only *possible*, but *most probable* to be otherwise; and now shall proceed to shew, it is impossible to be according to this Author's Assertion.

8. *If God disposeth the State of Events in such a Manner, that Sin will most certainly follow, and that he also permits, or doth not hinder it*, he must be the *sole Author* of Sin himself, and those who are called the Actors, or Committers of Evil, are only *Subjects*, by whom he effects it: They are nothing more, in the Case, than the *necessitated Instruments* of Evil. If he hath *so ordered* the Nature and Concerns of his rational Creation, *that they must most certainly and infallibly sin*, he must be *the Cause* of Sin, and *not they*; and it cannot be righteous in him to charge the Blame of what must infallibly follow, from his own Determination and Disposal, upon those to whom he has rendered it unavoidable.

If the Almighty, from the Beginning, *so ordered his Creation*, that Evil must necessarily ensue in it, it must be *designed by him*, or he would not have *so ordered it*, and every supposed Transgressor necessarily acts according to the Divine Will, in every Sin he commits, and the Divine Being takes Pleasure first in his Sin, and

next

next in his eternal Misery ; for he is certainly pleased when his Will is done. What worse can be said of the worst of Beings, than this Doctrine implies of the Best.

If Man be allowed no Choice, he can incur no Guilt. He must at some Time be at Liberty, or he can never do amiss. If he do only what he is obliged to do, by a Constitution of Things fixed by his Creator, he cannot sin against him ; for what he *obliges* him to do, he *wills* him to do, and it can be no Transgression against him to do his Will ; because to sin, is to offend him, and to offend him, is to act contrary to his Will. Whatever a Man doth from the Necessity of his Nature, let that Necessity be the Consequence of the Lapse of his first Parents, or not, if a Remedy be not in his Power, it is the same Thing to him. It was *not himself* that subjected himself to such a faulty or defective Nature ; therefore he cannot, in Equity, be condemned for what he could *no Way help, or avoid*. To assert, that a Person may be justly punished for being what he is obliged to be, or doing what he is inevitably forced to do by his Maker, may pass upon blind inconsiderate People for *Mystery* ; but to others it must appear a manifest Absurdity, and a most daring one, when attributed to the eternal Fountain of all Truth and Justice, a *Reproach* to him, and *Blasphemy* against him.

9. It is impossible God should commit any Act of Sin, because it is against his Nature, and consequently impossible he should will it. Sin is *the Transgression of his Will*, and if he could neither will nor act it, he cannot be *any Way* the Author of it. Barely suffering it to arise,

arise, is not *causing it* to be. All that can be allowed is, that by forming reasonable Creatures, and constituting them in a State of rational Freedom, he afforded them the Opportunity of making their Duty their Choice; but never willed them to abuse it, by lapsing from the Grace he favoured them with for their Preservation, dividing their Wills from his Will, and counteracting his salutary Laws; to whom they owed their Being, and on whom they must absolutely depend for all the Good they ever could enjoy. And notwithstanding he foresaw they might be prevailed on to make a wrong Use of their Liberty, he certainly intended to favour them with Means amply sufficient for their Recovery and Restoration. Though he forbore forcibly to hinder them from falling into Iniquity, he did all that could be done to prevent it in rational Creatures. He forewarned them against it, shewed them the dreadful Consequence of it, and unquestionably armed them with Power, by his Spirit, to withstand all Temptation to it, had they kept under it. He never could *so permit*, as *to license* their Departure from their reasonable Duty, and true Interest. By the Power and Goodness dispensed to Man, he might have stood without Sin; and now that he has fallen into it, by a Renewal of the same Power and Goodness still afforded him, he may be recovered from it, and brought to Felicity. His Redeemer both offers and assists him; yet he backslides, and refuses to abide under the Guidance of his great Benefactor. *Man's Destruction* therefore, *is of himself*, and in *the Lord alone is his Help*.

10. We are told, *The Will is always determined by the strongest Motive*. Has the Will no Liberty then, at any Time? Is it always so forcibly determined, in all its Motions, by Circumstances and Motives successively arising upon it, from the original Constitution of Things, that every Man is necessarily obliged to think, speak, and act just as he doth? No, it is answered, *In temporal Matters the Mind has a Liberty of Choice*. Why not in Spirituals as well as Temporals? How are the Motives and Circumstances which determine the Will in temporal Concerns, more in its Power than those that determine it in spiritual ones; and how do we know it to be so? Was this really the Case, our inevitable Acts would certainly render us no proper Subjects of Reward and Punishment; of Come, ye Blessed, or Go, ye Cursed. We must be equally unentitled to Approbation and Censure.

Those who allege, that Motives arise from the Circumstances we are placed in, and the Occurrences we meet with, which necessarily oblige us to think, speak, and act as they impress our Minds, do not appear sufficiently to consider, that there is a Supreme All-powerful Controller of Circumstances and Events, who can, and unquestionably doth, in due Season, by his potential Influence upon the Mind of Man, counterbalance every other Influence. Can we think that he placeth Good and Evil, Life and Death before Men, as the Sacred Records testify, and calleth them repeatedly to choose Life and Good, and yet that he doth not enable them so to do? Every Divine Precept, every Exhortation, every Command,

Command, every Commination, implies a Liberty afforded to the Subject, to comply or refuse; to obey, or disobey.

11. In the Supposition before us, the Will of Man is effectually deprived of all Freedom in his main Concern. For it is the same Thing to the Sufferer, whether the superior Power subject him under this irresistible Fatality, by an immediate and unalterable Decree, or by the Means of Motives and Inducements, so powerfully suited to his natural Inclinations and Passions, that he must necessarily be carried away with them. The Man is equally in Bondage either Way. To tell him, that his Will is free, because he doth as he pleases when he acts agreeable to those Motives, and the Dispositions they necessarily excite, or enlarge, whilst at the same Time, they are unavoidable by him, and so irresistibly influential to his corrupt Inclinations, that they are rendered eagerly concurrent with them; to argue in this Case, that because the Party pursues the Gratification of his present Desires, he acts upon a Principle of Freedom, is to assert an evident Falsehood. For, the Man is first deceived, overpowered, and so unwittingly captivated, that he cannot avoid willing the Evil he is insnared into; and though he wills it, it is because his Will is not at Liberty, but previously deceived and captivated, though he sees not how, and instead of being a *moral Agent*, is merely the *Instrument* of an unseen superior Power, who artfully obliges him to an evil Course, and to the Infelicity consequent upon it.

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The Nature of Liberty supposes no absolute Necessity, but such a Freedom as may admit of Choice, without a pre-determining Power obliging one Way only. 'Tis true, the Powers of Men, as well as those of all other Creatures, are necessarily limited to their proper Sphere. No Creature can exceed the Bounds of its proper Element, yet it can act with Freedom therein, as a Bird in the Air, or a Fish in the Water; so Man, though unable to stretch beyond the Compass of Humanity, is enabled to act at Liberty within it; and I conceive, a wise and good Being, though Omnipotent, would not put any Restraint or Force upon him there, but for his Good. It is barbarous to suppose, he would restrain him from Good in order to his Hurt. “ Far be it from God, Job xxxiv. 10, 11, 23. “ that he should do Wickedness; and from “ the Almighty, that he should commit Iniquity. For the Work of a Man shall he “ render unto him, and cause every Man to “ find according to his Ways.—For he will “ not lay upon Man more than Right; that “ he should enter into Judgment with God.”

12. I cannot perceive any Ground for a destructive Partiality in Almighty Wisdom, and perfect Equity. Can he who prefers Mercy to Sacrifice, exalt Cruelty above Mercy? To suppose, that the Supreme Excellence should create all the Millions of Mankind of one Nature, and for eternal Duration, and that he should, either immediately or remotely, necessitate a Minority of them to everlasting Happiness, and at the same Time determine to give the major Part no other Opportunity, but to be inevitably and eternally miserable; is to sup-

pose, that there is more Cruelty than Goodness, more Rigour than Wisdom, and more Inequality than Mercy in the Divine Nature. I therefore must conclude, that the Supposition is irrational, unjust, and grossly injurious to the Divine Character.

It is to be understood, that he who is supposed to act in this contrary Manner, towards his Creatures in the same State and Nature, doth it *from one and the same Nature in himself*; or that he is differently determined towards them, from two different Natures of contrary Dispositions in himself? I am utterly unable to conceive how *opposite Wills* can subsist in the *same Nature*, and how two contrary Natures can exist in a Being of perfect and immutable Simplicity and Purity; or that such contrary Procedures concerning his rational Creatures, can arise from Unity, Equity, and Goodness, in the utmost Perfection? But no Difficulty attends the Supposition, that *the same Nature* should operate to *different Effects* upon Subjects in different Conditions. It is evident to every Man's Observation, that the most glorious inanimate Object of Creation, the Sun, by its Beams will soften Pitch and harden Clay; but these contrary Effects arise not from different Natures in its own Rays, but are different Effects of the same Beams, occasioned by the contrary Dispositions of the Pitch and Clay to receive them. So, I apprehend, the Holy Spirit operates differently on different Persons, by Reason of their different States and Dispositions to receive its Influences.

It is not a little affecting, to behold Allegations so injurious to the great Dispenser of
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all Good, set forth with Subtilty of Sentiment, and Elegance of Language, which can hardly fail to operate to the Deception and Hurt of those who embrace and allow them a Place in their Minds. To assert, that God either originally, or afterwards, *disposed the Course of Things, and State of Events in such a Manner, that Sin must certainly and infallibly follow*, is to render him the *intentional and primary Author* of all the Evil that ensues. For he that raises a Building, causeth it to be filled with Combustibles, and sets Fire to it by a Fuze, or a Train of Powder of the greatest Extent, which must infallibly burn it down, is as certainly *the Destroyer* of the Edifice, as if he fired it immediately without such Means.

13. It hath been alleged, *If God had not given Man Liberty, he could not have abused it.* Very true. If the Artificer had not made, nor the Shop-keeper furnished the Suicide with the *Knife* he cut his Throat with, he could not have misused it; but is he who made or sold it him, *for better Purposes*, entitled to any Part of his Guilt? Without Liberty Man could not have sinned, and without the Knife the Suicide could not have made such a self-injurious Use of it; yet it is not the Knife, nor those who furnished it; neither is it the Liberty, nor he who afforded it; but the ill-conceived Disposition of the Perpetrator from whence the Default ariseth, and to which it is in Justice, wholly to be imputed.

14. All the Souls that God has made, are equally his; and he *whose Mercies are over all his Works*, overlooks none of his Creatures in the Distribution of his Mercies. He with-

holds his Talents from none, but dispenseth them in different Portions to different Persons; that social Communication and Connection may be preserved amongst us in this Life. To One he gives five Talents; to a Second, two; to a Third, one; but to every one a Degree of Divine Manifestation sufficient, if believed in and obeyed, to operate to his Salvation. He justly requires a Profiting answerable to the Measure he affords; and as he perfectly knows to what Degree of Improvement each might have attained, he will finally judge all according to their Increase, their Negligence, or their Rejection of the Talent received.

15. The rational immortal Soul, is principally and essentially the Man. This, as I have already shewn, is the immediate Creation of God, and descended not from *Adam* and *Eve*, nor passeth from Parents to Children, like the mortal Body; and seeing it never was in them, it never sinned in them. The Doctrine of *Preterition* therefore, which supposes, that all sinned when *Adam* transgressed, and *deserve* *Condemnation* for the Sin he committed, and thence concludes, that God doth justly withhold his saving Grace from the Majority of Mankind; is a Conclusion drawn from *untrue Premises*, and consequently a *false Doctrine*. First to create the rational Soul, and then to forsake it, is not *Preterition*, but *Dereliction*. And this Doctrine is not only *false*, but *dangerous*. For when some feel the comfortable Touches of Divine Visitation, instead of humbling themselves under it, that the Work of Regeneration may go forward, *this Opinion* leads them to imagine it to be a Mark
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of their Election, and perhaps to add other Marks to themselves from mistaken Scriptures ; by which they increase their natural Pride, Self-conceit, and Presumption, which defeat the good Intention of God's Grace towards them. Others of a melancholy Turn, when convicted and distressed in their Minds for Sin, are led by *this Opinion*, to think it a Mark of personal Reprobation, and thence into Despondence, with all its dismal Consequences. Thus, what the merciful Creator intends for Men's Benefit, they turn to their own great Disadvantage.

16. Whatever Doctrine contradicts the evident Sense of those clear and express Portions of the Sacred Record, which, by Divine Commission, professedly and directly treat upon this Point ; such Doctrine must be false, and ought to be rejected. It answers no good Purpose to increase Disputation about Things hidden, or Texts obscure and ambiguous ; but this is certain, and certainly to be relied upon, that where the Almighty plainly declares his Will, respecting his Creatures, he who cannot be mistaken, is surely to be credited in Preference to the Contradictions of mistaken Men, who presume to interpret his Words so as to contradict his most clear, and most solemn Asseverations.

Through a Misapprehension of the second Commandment, the People of *Israel*, in *Ezekiel's* Time, had espoused this *reprobationary Notion*, that the Children were punished for the Sin of their Parents, so that it was become a Maxim among them, " The Fathers have
" eaten four Grapes, and the Childrens Teeth
" are

“ are set on Edge.” The Prophet therefore, was *especially commissioned* to declare God’s immutable Will and Determination, in Opposition thereto. “ As I live, saith the Lord

Ezek. xviii
Verse 2
to 5.

“ God, ye shall not have Occasion any more
“ to use this Proverb in *Israel*. Behold, all
“ Souls are mine, as the Soul of the Father,
“ so also the Soul of the Son is mine : *The Soul*

Verse 20.

“ *that sinneth*, it shall die. *The Son shall not*
“ *bear the Iniquity of the Father*, neither shall
“ the Father bear the Iniquity of the Son ;
“ the Righteousness of the Righteous shall
“ be upon him, and the Wickedness of the

Verse 25 to
29.

“ Wicked shall be upon him.—Yet ye say,
“ the Way of the Lord is not equal. Hear
“ now, O House of *Israel* ! Is not my Way
“ equal ? Are not your Ways unequal ? When
“ a righteous Man turneth away from his
“ Righteousness, and committeth Iniquity,
“ and *dieth in them, for his Iniquity* that he
“ hath done, shall he die. Again, when the
“ wicked Man turneth away from his Wicked-
“ ness that he hath committed, and doth that
“ which is lawful and right, he shall save his
“ Soul alive. *Because* he considereth, and
“ turneth away from his Transgressions that
“ he hath committed, he shall surely live, he

Verse 30.

“ shall not die.—I will judge you, O House
“ of *Israel*, every one according to his Ways,
“ saith the Lord God. Repent, and turn
“ yourselves from all your Transgressions ; *so*
“ *Iniquity shall not be your Ruin.*” The Pro-

phet repeats more to the like Purpose, both in
this Chapter, and in the 33d. “ As I live,
“ saith the Lord God, I have *no Pleasure* in the
“ Death of the Wicked, *but that the Wicked*

Chap.
xxxiii. II.

“ *turn*

“ *turn from his Way and live.* Turn ye, turn
 “ ye from your evil Ways; for why *will ye*
 “ die, O House of *Israel*?—Yet the Children Verse 17,
 “ of thy People say, the Way of the Lord is 18, 19.
 “ not equal; but as for them, *their Way is not*
 “ *equal.* When the Righteous turneth from
 “ his Righteousness, and committeth Iniquity,
 “ he shall even *die thereby.* But if the Wicked
 “ turn from his Wickedness, and do that which
 “ is lawful and right; he shall *live thereby.*”

It is manifest, the *Death* denounced in these Scriptures, is not the common Death of the Body; for in that Respect, *one Event* happeneth to the Righteous and the Wicked, but that State of everlasting Infelicity peculiar to those who go out of Time into Eternity, without Repentance and Regeneration.

From all these express Declarations, it evidently appears, that the Almighty “ doth not Lam. iii.
 “ afflict *willingly*, nor grieve the Children of 33.
 “ Men;” that he is *not willing* that *any* should
 perish, but that *all* should come to Repentance. 2 Pet. iii.
 These are all plain Manifestations of the Mind 9.
 of God professedly on the Point, and to all
 who intend not to deny his Uprightness and
 Veracity they ought to be decisive. The Sins
 of Men are placed to the Account of *their*
own Will, and not to the Will of God, in that
 pathetic Expostulation, *Why will ye die?* And
 indeed, it is *impossible* he should will that which
 is a Transgression of his Will. It is clear, he
 doth all that can be done by fair Means to
 prevent it. By that pressing Repetition, *Turn*
ye, turn ye from your evil Ways, it is manifest,
 he puts it in the Power of Men to turn from
 them. Who then can justify their Perverse-
 ness,

ness, by any Way charging their Sin, either immediately or remotely to his Account?

Men are not destroyed through any Malevolence in their Creator towards them; but are saved by his Grace, which he dispenseth to all from that unparalleled Benevolence, which ariseth purely from his Infinite Goodness. Sinful Man hath nothing to offer, God therefore, *will have Mercy, because he will have Mercy*; because he is full of Mercy, he will dispense it to his helpless and unworthy Creatures. “ I,” saith he to the repenting Sinner, “ even I am he that blotteth out thy Transgressions, *for mine own Sake*, and will not “ remember thy Sins.”

Ifa. xliii.
25-

Edwards,
P. 358, &c

17. Detachments of various Texts and Portions of Scripture, though indirect to the Subject, and alluding to different Considerations, have been pressed, and martialled under divers Colours, to fix a cruel Partiality on our common Creator and Benefactor. We are told, that he *ordered* the Obstinacy of *Pharaoh*, the Sin and Folly of *Sihon*, and the Kings of *Canaan*, the treacherous Rebellion of *Zedekiah* against the King of *Babylon*, the Rapine and Ravages of *Nebuchadnezzar*, &c. But properly considered, this was ordering Punishment for Sin, not Sin for Punishment. He hardeneth none till they have hardened themselves past all Probability of Repentance, and then he leaves them to the Mis-rule of their own beloved Lusts and Vices; and what are treated as unrighteous Ravages, though really such in the Committers of them, are, respecting the Almighty, the righteous Execution of his Justice against those who have filled up
their

their Measure of Iniquity, and abused his gracious Goodness and long Forbearance towards them, till he sees fit no longer to continue it to them. Thus he punisheth the *settled Wickedness* of some, by the Wickedness of their Enemies, which he permits to be turned upon them; and afterwards proceeds in like Manner with their Chastisers, when they also have filled up their Measure.

I shall omit at present to proceed further with the Scriptures alleged against the universal Extension of Divine Goodness to the Souls of Men, and acknowledge my Inability to conceive, what *wise, holy, and most excellent Ends and Purposes* could be answered, by the *Almighty's disposing the State of Events in such a Manner, that Sin will most certainly and infallibly follow*, and eternal Misery to innumerable Multitudes of his Creatures in Consequence; and also *what Glory* can accrue to a Being infinite in Wisdom, Power and Goodness, from his *continually* creating immortal and reasonable Creatures, with no better Intention towards them but that most barbarous one of irredeemable Infelicity. I am also at a Loss to discover, what Comfort can arise to an humane, virtuous and charitable Mind from such a cruel Consideration. Those Hearts must be very unfeeling for others, and their Conceit in their own Favour very strong, who, fancying to themselves a personal Election, can pride and console themselves in their own imagined Security, and the inequitable Destruction of the major Part of their Species. Misled Men, like the unprofitable Servant, may imagine such unjust Severity in the unchangeable Perfection

fection of Equity, but those who have the Love of God shed abroad in their Hearts, by the Holy Ghost, find it to flow freely towards all Mankind without Exception, and to engage them to wish the Salvation of all. This is a stronger Proof to them of the Universality of God's good Will to Men, than all the sophistical Reasonings of those who remain insensible of it, to the contrary.

18. Before I leave this Subject, let me observe, that my Opponent, P. 198, after his usual Manner of *making Meanings* for me, will have it, that according to some of my Expressions; "Mankind are by Nature, in such a State, that if God does not afford them sufficient Means of Salvation, *he is unjust*; surely then, there *can be no Grace* in his giving them these, for, whatsoever he is *bound* in Justice and Equity to bestow, cannot be Grace. This is an Observation which carries *its own Evidence* with it."

Every Observation carries *its own Evidence* with it, but it may not be a true Evidence. What I assert is, that as it would be an Act of Injustice and Cruelty, to create rational and sensible Souls, with no better Purpose towards them, than to render them inexpressibly and eternally miserable, by continually supporting them in Being, and as continually withholding that from them without which they never can be relieved; *so it is impossible* for God, who is most essentially and immutably Justice and Goodness itself, to act otherwise by his Creatures than according to Justice and Goodness; and therefore, that he certainly doth not withhold, but affords his Creatures the Means necessary

necessary to their Felicity. I believe his Mercies are over all, and to all, with a *just* and *gracious* Intent towards them; and that the universal Redeemer purchased Gifts for those who prove rebellious, as well as others, and that all are visited with a Manifestation of his Spirit, that they may profit by it; and though they do lapse from the visiting Power, and often lose the disposing Assistances afforded them, he still follows them, Time after Time, in long Forbearance, and often revisits them, of his freely-abounding Grace and Mercy, that they may be prevailed upon to come to Repentance and be saved. Hence, according to common Phraseology, we style his universal primary Assistance an Act of Equity, and his numerous Repetitions thereof Acts of Goodness; yet neither is the First without Grace and Mercy, nor are the Latter void of Equity. As to that of God's being *bound* in Justice and Equity, I do not see the Propriety of that Language. I apprehend, he is not *bound* by any Thing, but that he always acts in the *perfect Freedom of his own Nature*; which is that of *Equity, Truth and Goodness*. For, strictly speaking, I think it less proper to say, that he *has* what we mean by these Terms, than that he *is* what we intend by them; and as his Essence can never admit of the least Imperfection, it is impossible he should ever be, or act otherwise. It is therefore by a strained and unjust Inuendo, that S. N. would infer from my Words, that irreverent upbraiding Kind of Expression, "If God does not afford them sufficient Means of Salvation, *he is unjust.*" Should I follow his Manner
of

of Reasoning, I might as properly infer, that he holds Grace and Justice as incompatible with each other, and cannot possibly concur in the same Act; which, I think, he will hardly affirm. Doth not he, as well as I, assert that God's Acts are according to Justice? Will he allow me to say, that he therefore denies there is either Grace or Mercy in them? Should I put such an Abuse upon his Expressions, he would unquestionably bestow the Severity of his Justice upon me; which I acknowledge he has often done with great Freedom, without any just Merit on my Part.

19. We read *Isaiah* lv. 8, 9. "My Thoughts
 " *are not your Thoughts*, neither are your Ways
 " my Ways, saith the Lord; for as the Hea-
 " vens are higher than the Earth, *so are my*
 " *Ways than your Ways, and my Thoughts than*
 " *your Thoughts.*" And Chap. xl. 28, the Prophet saith, "There is no searching of his
 " Understanding." Yet our Christian-Fatalists appear to think themselves wise enough to discover, the very precise Mode and Manner of God's Prescience, and because they can see but one Way how Omniscience should foreknow, they seem to conclude, there can be no other in the unlimited Expanse of Infinite Ability.

Rom. xi. 34. But, "who hath known the Mind of the Lord,
 " or who hath been his Counsellor?" To whom hath he revealed those unfearchable, and incomprehensible Secrets of the Divine Essence which belong to himself only? A due Degree of Modesty would teach us, there is something in the Mode and Manner of Infinite Comprehension, as much beyond the Reach of our limited Capacities, as the Extent of
 Omniscience

Omniscience itself; and Attempts to unvail inscrutable Myſteries, are more evident Demonſtrations of human Preſumption and Folly, than of Wiſdom and Piety. Are thoſe Men ſure, there is no Way poſſible for God to know, but what is open to the Perception of their imperfect Modicum of Reaſon? The Arguments they ground upon this imaginary Foundation, are ſufficient to impeach their Baſis; for they carry an evident Face of Falſehood. They ultimately and unavoidably render the undeniable Source of all Good, and Center of all Perfection, the *real and intentional* Author of all Imperfection, Vice and Wickedneſs, and all the Miſery conſequent thereupon; which *it is impoſſible* for unchangeable Truth and Goodneſs to be. “ Wilt thou,” ſaith he, Job xl. 8. “ diſannul my Judgment? Wilt thou condemn me, that thou mayeſt be righteous?” —“ God forbid,” ſaith the Apoſtle, “ yea, Rom. iii. 4. “ let God be true, but every Man a Liar.”

From the Certainty of the Premiſes the Certainty of the Concluſion ariſeth. From uncertain Premiſes no certain Concluſion can be drawn. There is ſomething in the Divine Preſcience which always hath been, and is ever like to remain an impenetrable Secret to human Underſtanding. What no Man knows, no Man can properly argue from. We know the Divine Being is but one Eſſence, perfectly pure and ſimple. One eternal, immutable, central Power, making and ſupporting all other Beings, and operating variously according to the Subjects, and the State of the Subjects of its Operation; but never contrarily towards Subjects in the ſame Condition. As
all

Pfal. cxlv.
17.

all Souls are equally his immediate Creation, no just Reason can be advanced why he, who *is righteous in all his Ways, and holy (or merciful) in all his Works*, should deal so unequally with them, as to *predetermine* some to eternal Happiness, and others to inevitable Misery. Mere Will and Pleasure, implies an unaccountable Severity, tho' under the Guise of *Sovereignty*. The Condemnation of Men, according to our Saviour, is neither the Fruit of God's previous Decree, nor his Preterition; for, "*this is the Condemnation, that Light is come into the World, but Men loved Darknefs rather than Light, because their Deeds were evil.*"

John iii.
19.

C H A P.



C H A P. XI.

1. *The Quakers cleared of the Charge of their holding Anti-scriptural Principles.* 2. *S. Newton's reiterated Pretence to try their Doctrine by Right Reason, and the true Sense of Scripture, a presumptuous Vanity. The Scripture not clearly and fully understood without the Illumination of the Spirit that gave them forth.* 3. *Authors cited to this Purpose.* 4. *Barclay's Assertion defended.* 5. *No Disagreement or Clashing in the different Degrees of Divine Evidence.* 6. *The Infallibility of the Scriptures as given forth by the Spirit, and the Fallibility of human Understanding concerning them.* 7. *None but the Divine Author able to ascertain his own Sense in the Scriptures.* 8. *The Scriptures rightly understood, a Rule; but not the sole, the primary, and universal Rule. The Holy Spirit alone is such.* 9. *The Scriptures allowed to be the primary written Rule, to which, in all Disputes, we therefore refer, as well as others; but the immediate Illumination of God's Spirit, is a more certain Criterion to each Individual in his own Breast.*

1. **M**Y Opponent, in his Introduction, P. 3, and in several other Places, insinuates, that the *Quakers* System is founded upon a *supposed* saving Influence of the Holy Spirit, *without* the Instrumentality of the Scriptures; and Page 4, he charges it upon them as an Anti-scriptural Principle. This he positively asserts, from which I must dissent, because

because I understand the Religion of the *Quakers* stands not in *System*, nor is a *supposed* saving Influence of the Spirit any Part of their Doctrine, but a *real experimental one*; not *always without*, but *often with* the Instrumentality of the Scriptures. I'll own myself obliged to him, if he will shew me where the Scripture either says, or fairly implies, that the Spirit is not to be received without their Instrumentality. How was the Spirit received by the Pen-men of the Scriptures, from Beginning to End, when they *wrote and spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost*? I look upon this Assertion of S. N. as a fundamental Error; for, it is not only true, that the Scriptures assert no such Thing, but also that they plentifully inculcate the contrary, as will appear anon.

Christ is with his true Followers, and will be to the End of the World. To say, he is always with them in the Scriptures, appears to me, too great a Strain of Language for Truth to accompany. If the Spirit of Christ be so connected with the Text, as always to attend it, I apprehend, no sincere and sensible Reader could mistake the Sense of it, nor any such differ to an Opposition of each other about it; yet what is more common? We have frequently experienced, and *always* allowed, that the Spirit of Truth often useth, and openeth Truth by the Scriptures, as an instrumental Means; and we also assert, that the same Spirit often hath opened Truths, given a Sense of their Conditions, and administered Help, to sincere and attentive Minds, without the Instrumentality of the Scriptures. This is the
universal

universal Gospel-privilege, foretold by *Jeremiah*, through Divine Inspiration. “ I will put Jer. xxxi. 33, 34
 “ my Law in their inward Parts, and write
 “ it in their Hearts, and will be their God,
 “ and they shall be my People. And they
 “ shall teach no more” (of Necessity) “ every
 “ Man his Neighbour, and every Man his
 “ Brother, saying, know ye the Lord; for
 “ they shall all know me,” (each Man for
 himself) “ *from the least of them to the greatest*
 “ *of them, saith the Lord.*”

Is it rationally to be understood, that this Divine Internal Teacher, is so *absolutely bound* to the Instrumentality of Scripture, in his *immediate Legation* to the Soul of Man, that he never opens or instructs without it? The Text implies no such Matter. The Apostle *John* (Anno Dom. 90) treats of this immediate Teacher under the Title of *an Unction from the Holy one*. “ Ye have an Unction from 1 John ii. 20, 27
 “ the Holy one, and ye know all Things.” That is, I take it, *ye have the Spirit, which, as you attend to it, gives you a right Discerning of all Things that concern you; for, “ The Anointing which ye have received of him, abideth in you, and ye need not that any Man teach you; but as the same Anointing teacheth you of all Things, and is Truth,”* (the Spirit of Truth) “ and is no Lie; and even, as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him or it.” This shews the complete *Sufficiency* of this inward, immediate Instructor, without any Instrumentality of an exterior Kind. The eternal *Spirit of Truth* cannot stand in Need of any such Assistance; consequently, is not to be understood as confined to any, but operates
 I either

either by the Scriptures, or without them, at his Pleasure.

God hath always afforded Instruction to his People; but his Teachings by the Law to the *Jews*, were through instrumental Means. The Prophet declares, this New Covenant of the Gospel should *not be* according to the Old Covenant of the Law; it should not *consist* of instrumental Teaching, though that might be *occasionally used*; for *God himself would put his Law in their inward Parts*. This implies his own immediate Communication to the Soul, of that Law which is not according to the literal Nature of the Old Covenant, but is really and truly, *the Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus*; the illuminating quickening Law, immediately and mentally given to Man by *the Spirit of Life itself*; which therefore is, and ever must be, the *constitutional establishment* of the Gospel-dispensation.

Isaiah, in a prophetic Address to the Gospel Church, saith, “All thy Children shall be taught of the Lord.” In Reference to this, and other like Prophecies, our Saviour saith, “It is written in the Prophets, and they shall be *all* taught of God. Every Man therefore that *hath heard*, and *hath learned of the Father*, cometh unto me.” And in the preceding Verse he saith, “No Man can come to me except the Father who hath sent me, draw him.” This *drawing, bearing and learning* of the Father, and *coming to Christ*, are all spiritually to be understood; as I have shewn in the former Part of this Discourse. This Doctrine is witnessed to 1 *Thess.* iv. 8, 9. Beginning with those who had so little Under-
standing

standing of it, as to treat it with Contempt, the Apostle declares, " He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not Man, but God, who hath also given unto us his Holy Spirit. But as touching Brotherly-love, ye need not that I write unto you; for *ye yourselves are taught of God*, to love one another." The Apostle was then writing to them *immediately from God*; by Divine Inspiration, and he makes a manifest Difference between this mediate Manner of Teaching, and what he intended by *their being taught of God*; the direct and obvious Sense of which is, God's own *immediate* Illumination and Instruction.

By necessary Consequence from these Premises, and Abundance more that might be added from the Scriptures, it appears to be both an experimental and a scriptural Truth, that *God teacheth immediately by his Spirit, as well as Instrumentally by external Means*; and that this is an *indispensable Doctrine of the Gospel*.

2. S. N. sets out, in his Letter, P. 4, with a Profession to try the leading Principles of the Quakers by *Right Reason, and Scripture*, or as he afterwards expresses it, *the true Sense of Scripture*. Upon this, I observed, that without Divine Illumination, Man has not sufficient Ability to ascertain the genuine Sense of doubtful and disputed Texts, which are very numerous, and mentioned in Proof, the Diversity of Senses wherein those Texts, are understood, by Persons apparently of equal Sincerity, and of the best natural and acquired Parts, under the same, as well as different Denominations, as plain Indications, that the

Assistance of the Divine Author himself is requisite to the right Understanding of them. I also shewed, that Man's Reason is too much clouded, and biassed by his Passions and Prepossessions, to be justly denominated *Right Reason*, and instanced its Diversity concerning spiritual Matters, and its Mutability in the same Persons; also that *Right Reason is Truth, unchangeably the same, and incapable of Error*, and therefore exists only in *the Divine Nature*, which Men must, in Measure, become Partakers of in order to the Rectification of their fallen and fallible Reason.

Instead of either acknowledging, or disproving this, S. N. now professes to bring the leading Sentiments of the *Quakers*, a second Time, to the Bar of *Right Reason* and *the true Sense of Scripture*; but he forgot that he ought, *in the first Place*, to prove, that he hath these *infallible Criteria* in Possession. "A Man," says Sir William Temple, "that
 " tells me my Opinions are absurd or ridiculous, impertinent or unreasonable, *because*
 " they differ from his, seems to intend a Quarrel instead of a Dispute, and calls me Fool
 " or Madman with a little more Circumstance;
 " though perhaps I pass for One as well in my
 " Senses as he; as pertinent in Discourse, and
 " as prudent in Life. Yet these are the common Civilities in religious Argument, of
 " sufficient and conceited Men, who talk
 " much of *Right Reason*, and mean always
 " *their own*, and make their private Imagination the Measure of general Truth." *Observations on the United Provinces*, Page 226.
 Respecting

Respecting the Scriptures, we are so far from lessening them, or opposing the true Sense of them, that we verily believe, and sincerely assert, that the Holy Spirit, in what Degree of Illumination soever it appears, never can contradict them ; for Difference in Degree makes no Contrariety. It is the *private*, or particular, *Interpretation of Man without Divine Illumination*, that we object to, as insufficient to assure the Sense of disputed Scriptures. Besides Man's natural Inability, the various Prejudices, the prevailing Passions, the different Interests, and the diverse Leaders of the People, all contribute to give different, and sometimes opposite Senses of the Sacred Text. Many have the Words of the Spirit in Scripture, who have not the Mind of the Spirit in their Hearts.

3. Neither Nature nor Education can give a Man the Sense of the Holy Ghost, nor, of Consequence, interpret its Expressions with Certainty. It is therefore truly asserted, not only by the *Quakers*, but also by Abundance of distinguished Writers of various Professions, ancient and modern, that the internal Illumination of God's Holy Spirit is absolutely necessary to every Man, in order to his right Understanding of the Scriptures. Let me advance a few out of many more now before me.

“ The Holy Scriptures opened by the Holy Spirit, shew Christ unto us ; the Holy Spirit is therefore the Opener of the Scriptures.” *Theophylact* in Joan. 10.

“ What Men set forth from human Sense, may be perceived by the Wit of Man ; but
“ what

“ what is set forth by the Inspiration of
 “ the Divine Spirit, requires an Interpreter
 “ inspired with the like Spirit.” *Erasmus*,
 Paraph. in 2 *Peter* i. 20, 21. And *Coll.* in
Ixthrophagia prope Finem, he says, “ They
 “ expound the Sacred Writings from the
 “ Pulpit, which no Man can either *rightly*
 “ *understand*, or *profitably teach* without the
 “ Inspiration of the Holy Spirit.”

“ The Scriptures are of no private Interpre-
 “ tation; i. e. not of every private Man’s
 “ Interpretation out of his own Brain, because
 “ they were dictated by the Holy Ghost; and
 “ by the Holy Ghost, the Meaning of the
 “ Holy Ghost in them only can be expounded.”
Obad. Watker’s Disc. concerning the Spirit of
Martin Luther, P. 97.

“ The Scriptures are not to be understood,
 “ but *by the same Spirit* by which they were
 “ written.” *Luther*, Oper. Tom. 2. P. 309.

“ The Spirit of God, from whom the Doc-
 “ trine of the Gospel proceeds, is *the only true*
 “ *Interpreter* to open it to us.” *Calvin’s* Com.
 in 1 *Cor.* ii. 14.

“ The Apostle teacheth, 1 *Cor.* 2. that the
 “ Scripture cannot be apprehended and under-
 “ stood but by the Holy Spirit.” *Zanckius*,
De Sacra Scriptura, Tom. viii. P. 430.

“ The Things of the Spirit of God, are
 “ understood and perceived by the powerful
 “ Inspiration of the Holy Spirit alone.” *Beza*,
Anotat. in 1 *Cor.* ii. 14.

“ As the Scriptures were written by the
 “ Spirit of God, so must they be expounded
 “ by the same. For, without that Spirit, we
 “ have neither Ears to hear, nor Eyes to see.

“ It

“ It is that Spirit that openeth, and no Man
 “ shutteth, the same shutteth, and no Man
 “ openeth.” Bishop *Jewel’s* Defence of the
 Apology, P. 72.

“ The outward Reading of the Word, with-
 “ out the inward Working of his Spirit, is
 “ *nothing*. The precise Pharisees, the learned
 “ Scribes, read the Scriptures over and over
 “ again; they not only read them in Books,
 “ but wore them on their Garments; they
 “ were not only taught, but were able to teach
 “ others. But because *this Heavenly Teacher*
 “ *had not instructed them*, their Understanding
 “ was darkened; their Knowledge was but
 “ Vanity.” Arch-bishop *Sandy’s* Sermons,
 printed 1616, P. 48.

“ The Holy Men of God spake as they
 “ were moved by the Holy Ghost; it fol-
 “ loweth, that all the Scripture ought to be
 “ expounded by God, because it is inspired of
 “ God—We do acknowledge, that all Means
 “ are vain, unless the Lord give Eyes to see;
 “ to whom, therefore, the Prophet made his
 “ Prayer, *Open mine Eyes, that I may see thy* Psal. cxix.
 “ *Wonders of thy Law.*” Rainolds’s Confer- 18.
 rence with *Hart*, P. 81.

“ The internal Light whereby we come to
 “ see the Sense of the Scripture, is the Holy
 “ Spirit.” *Weemse’s* Christian Synagogue,
 Lib. i. P. 31.

“ The Anointing of the Holy Spirit, teach-
 “ eth the Faithful to understand those Truths,
 “ which they have received from the Apostles.”
Amesius, Bellarm. enervatus. Lib. i. C. v.
 N. 32, P. 60.

“ It

“ It is not possible that super-natural Know-
 “ ledge should be rightly received, without
 “ super-natural Light.” *Fra. Rous*, Interiora
 regnia Dei Cœlest. Academ. Chap. ii. P. 12.

“ God is the Author of all Divine Truth,
 “ and of the Discovery of it made to us. An
 “ inward enlightening and irradiating the
 “ Mind by the Holy Spirit, is absolutely ne-
 “ cessary for the Apprehending of the Divine
 “ Mysteries, which are contained in the Doc-
 “ trines of the Gospel.” *John Edwards’s* Free
 Disc. concerning Truth and Error, P. 481.

“ In Regeneration, the Understanding is
 “ illuminated by the Holy Spirit, that it may
 “ understand both the Mysteries and Will of
 “ God.” The Helvitian Confession, and Ex-
 pos. Fidei Christianæ, Chap. ix.

“ The Gift of interpreting Scripture, is
 “ not of human Prudence, but of the Holy
 “ Ghost.” Wirtembergica Confessio, de Sacra
 Scriptura, in Corp. Confess.

“ We acknowledge the inward Illumination
 “ of the Spirit of God, to be necessary for
 “ the saving Understanding of such Things as
 “ are revealed in the World.” Confession of
 Faith by the Assembly of Divines at *Westmin-*
ster, since approved by the Kirk of *Scotland*,
 and the same with that of the *Independents*,
 and particular *Baptists*.

4. Page 5. S. N. faith, in his Note, that
I charge him with Ignorance and Design. My
 Words are, Ignorance or Design. Ignorance;
 if he really thinks *Barclay* means, the internal
 Illumination of the Spirit in one Man’s Breast,
 is an Evidence of it to others. Design; if he
 really understands his Meaning, and wilfully
 perverts

perverts it. *Barclay's* Assertion, that neither the Scriptures, nor the natural Reason of Man, are *a more noble, or certain Rule or Touchstone*, than the immediate Revelation of God's Holy Spirit, relates only to such as are sensible of its immediate Revelations, and to the Evidence of these Revelations in the Parties themselves to whom they are immediate. To *these* he asserts, they are *more noble*, because *Divine*, and *more certain*, because *immediate*, than *their own private Interpretation*, of Scriptures, by Reading and Study, without the Illumination of the Holy Spirit, can be. The Spirit *only* can ascertain the Sense it intends. Sometimes it communicates a literal, sometimes an allegorical Sense, a direct, or an allusive Sense, a theoretical, or an experimental Sense. Men are liable to mistake one for another, and without a Sense of the Spirit, must often miss of the Mind of the Spirit.

In the next Proposition, *Barclay* demonstrates the Truth of his Assertion, by shewing from *1 Cor. xii. 12, &c.* that though the Body or Church of Christ is one, it is composed of many Members, who have each their several Services appointed, and directed by the Holy Spirit in that Body; and each must therefore attend to the Spirit for his own proper Direction. He afterwards instances the special Duties of Particulars in the Church. *Barclay* therefore gives frequent Advices, to a Waiting for, and due Attention to, the Holy Spirit; which *S. N. P. 5*, seems so out of Temper with, that he treats them as bold Dictates, terrible Impositions, and enthusiastic Delusions of fatal Tendency.

5. P. 7. He professes to untie what he calls *the Gordian Knot of Quakerism*, by observing, that the *true Sense* of the Scriptures, is of equal Authority with Divine Manifestations, and that, as the Scriptures were given forth by the Apostles, whom we allow had the Spirit in a greater Degree than any in this Age, therefore he concludes, upon our Principles, the *true Sense* of the Scriptures, is a nobler Rule of Judgment in Religion, than *our own pretended* inward Divine Revelations.

We are well apprized of, and have always asserted, greater and lesser Degrees of Divine Illumination have been communicated to different persons; but we also believe there cannot be any Contrariety, Clashing, or Dissonance in any of its Degrees; because it is from one and the same Spirit, and in what Degree soever it appears, it speaks one and the same Thing, in point of Congruity, and carries its own Divine Authority with it in every Degree. Hence, to suppose a *Disagreement* between one Degree of it and another, whilst it can differ in nothing but Degree, is *untrue* and *absurd*. As to *our own*, or *any Man's own pretended*, or *any pretended* Divine Revelations, we utterly and equally disclaim, as being of any Authority, or Advantage whatsoever; for such mere Pretensions are altogether as unequal to discover and assure the *true Sense* of dubious Parts of Scripture, as the unenlightened Reason of the natural Man. It is a vain Thing in any Person *to pretend* he has the *true Sense* of the Holy Scriptures, whilst his Performances demonstrate his Mistakes concerning it; which is
evidently

evidently the Case with our present Opposer, as I shall make more fully appear by and by.

6. When any press their own particular Opinion of the Sense of any Part of Scripture, as the *true Sense* of the Holy Ghost, yet deny all Sense of the Holy Ghost in their Hearts, who that observes a Diversity of Senses amongst these, can give Credit to their Assertions? But they allege, *the Scripture is infallible*. I allow it; but how is its true Sense to be infallibly conveyed to every Reader? By human Study and Instruction? That has led into all the Differences and Disagreements about it. The plain Truth of the Matter is, nothing but the Spirit of Divine Wisdom, whence the Scripture came, can give the genuine Sense of it. For, “The Things of 1 Cor. ii. 11. God knoweth no Man, but the Spirit of God.” What is the Infallibility of Scripture to him, who has not the infallible Sense of it? If all had *this*, who have the Scriptures, none could mistake them, nor differ with each other about them; yet it is too manifest, by the Differences amongst Christians, they do mistake them. This is not to be imputed to any Defect in the Sacred Writings, but to the common Unfitness of Men’s Understandings to discover the right Sense of them. What then can open it to Man’s Capacity but the Holy Spirit?

The Question is not, whether the Scriptures, as written by Divine Inspiration, are infallibly right, for such must be so, but whether every one that reads them, is able infallibly to understand them? To pretend, if they are not clearly to be understood without the Assistance of the Spirit, they are given in vain, is to contradict the

1 Cor. xii. 7. the Scripture, which declares that, “ The
 “ Manifestation of the Spirit is given to every
 “ Man to profit withal.” It may as truly be
 asserted, that the Divine Being, whilst he
 knows we are in Darkneſs, gives us a Chart to
 direct our Way, and at the ſame Time with-
 holds the Light, by which alone we can diſ-
 cover its true Contents; which is merely to
 mock and tantalize us, and alſo to render our
 Situation worſe than that of the *Jews*; for all
 the written Precepts of their Law were plain
 . Neh. ix. 7. and evident; yet *God gave them of his good
 Spirit to inſtruct them; all the written Doctrines
 of the Goſpel are not ſo, and is not the Holy
 Spirit as requiſite to us as it was to them?*

7. Scripture Doctrines are of divers Clafſes.
 They exhibit juſt Morals, and benevolent
 Conduct between Man and Man, in a Manner
 ſuperior to the beſt Ethic Writers in all Ages
 and Nations. Theſe are generally and juſtly
 allowed to be of natural, univerſal, and unal-
 terable Obligation, and are ſufficiently plain
 and clear to the common Senſe of every Man.
 But Matters relating to Faith and Worſhip,
 having admitted of many circumſtantial Addi-
 tions and Alterations, according to the diſfe-
 rent Diſpenſations of Divine Wiſdom, have
 not been ſo level to Men’s Underſtandings,
 nor have they been ſo united in Judgment
 concerning them, as in the Caſe of moral
 Duties. Ever ſince the collected Publication
 of the New Teſtament, Differences in Opinion
 about the true Senſe, eſpecially in Matters of
 Faith, have ſubſiſted and abounded; and what
 can determine theſe Differences? The learned
A. ſaith, ſuch a Text means ſo and ſo. The
 learned

learned *B.* asserts, it is to be accepted in a different, perhaps a contrary Sense. They apply to the Context, and remain still as different in Opinion, and as positive of being in the Right. They recur from Text to Text, and from Critic to Commentator, till they have exhausted every one they can find, or force to their Purpose, and still remain equally, if not more at a Distance than at the Beginning. What is there left to determine the Matter? Will Churches or Councils do it? They jangle from Year to Year, or from Age to Age, and leave the Difference as wide as they found it. The *true Sense* still remains only with the Divine Author of the disputed Texts, and he alone is able to communicate it. Would it not be a wild Presumption in either *A.* or *B.* to boast that he'll try his Opponent's Opinion by the *true Sense* of the Spirit, and at the same Time deny, that either himself, or Man, *can have any real Sense* of the Spirit? I have not here supposed a Nonentity, but a Case that has subsisted for a great many Centuries, and which must always continue, whilst Men prefer their own Prejudices, Imaginations, and Reasonings, to the internal Leadings of the Spirit of Truth.

8. We hold the Scriptures to be a *Rule* to all that have them, so far as they have a right Understanding of them, and also that they are adequate to the Purpose intended by them; but we cannot aver, they are *the sole, the primary, and the universal Director* of Mankind in Matters of religious Duty. 1. They are not the *sole Director*; because the Spirit of God in the Heart and Conscience of Man is also an undeniable

undeniable Director. 2. They are not the *primary Director*; because the Illumination of the Holy Spirit that gave them forth is requisite to open the true Sense of those numerous Parts of them, about which the Apprehensions of Men so much differ. The Spirit also from which the Scriptures came, is *original*, and therefore *primary* to them; and as the Spirit only can open its own true Sense included in them, they are *secondary* to the Spirit, as an Instrument in its Hand. 3. They are not *the universal Director*; because it is not probable that One in Ten, if one in Twenty, of Mankind, have ever had the Opportunity of possessing them. Seeing therefore this is the Case, they cannot properly be pronounced, the *complete, adequate, universal Rule of Mankind*.

Hence we esteem them the *secondary* Rule or Guide of Christians, which being Divinely communicated for the Use of all to whom they may come; and also being intrinsically superior in Excellence to all other Writings, we prefer them above all others, and as thankfully accept, and as comfortably use them, as any People upon Earth; verily believing, with

Rom. xv. 4 the Holy Apostle, that they “ were written
 “ for our Learning, that we, through Pati-
 “ ence, and Comfort of the Scriptures might
 “ have Hope.”

This is not to depreciate the Scriptures, but to hold them in their proper Place, and due Superiority to the Works of Men, and Subordination to their Supreme Communicator, and only sure Expounder. For the Holy Spirit is requisite to the right Use of them, as the Agent to the Instrument; and what is an

Instrument

Instrument without a Hand to guide and enforce it? And which is superior, the Agent or the Instrument? The Holy Spirit is the *original Wisdom* whence the Scriptures came, and the sole Power that can open, and give right Effects to them. *The Spirit of Truth is* John xvi. 13. *given to guide into all Truth*; is the only Thing that can do it, and consequently *the Supreme Guide* afforded to Mankind. It is both unwarrantable and irrational, to assert any Thing else is the *sole*, or *primary Director*, whilst the Spirit of God is communicated for that Purpose.

The same Scripture-Truths appear as differently to each Person, as their Understandings differ one from another. Human Intellects therefore must be rectified, to enable them to see those Truths in the same Sense. The Rectifier is the Spirit of Truth, which alone can unite them in the true Sense.

We stick not to style the Scriptures collectively, *a Divine*, or *Christian Rule*; but we object to call them, *The Rule of Faith and Practice*, lest that should be understood to imply we are to look for nothing further to be our Guide or Leader. The Scriptures themselves abundantly testify, there is something superior to them, which we ought to look for, and attend unto; that is, the Holy Spirit of the Supreme Legislator of Men, and Prime Author of the sacred Writings; in and by whose Light and Power they are made instrumentally useful, and adequate to the Purposes intended by them. Like a good Sun-dial, they are true and perfect in their Kind, that is, as Writings; but, respecting the Parts differently understood,

understood, they may justly bear the same Motto with the Dial, * *Non sine Lumine*. For as the Dial without the Cast of the Sun-beams, has not its proper Use, to tell the Time of the Day ; neither doth the ambiguous Text answer its true End, infallibly to communicate the Mind of the Holy Spirit to different Understandings, except the luminous Beams of the Sun of Righteousness discover it to the attentive Mind.

9. Our Opposers call the Scriptures *the primary Rule*. We allow it is *the primary written Rule*, and in all Disputes betwixt them and us, we abide by its Decision, according to our understanding of the Sense of it, which they profess to do likewise by theirs. In all publick Differences therefore we refer intentionally to the same Rule with them. But we have both plain Scripture and Experience to support our Belief, that respecting the particular Duty of Individuals, every one hath in his own Breast, a nearer and more certain Rule or Guide of Conscience than the Scriptures ; *the Manifestation of the Spirit given to every Man to profit withal*, which duly observed, gives a right Interpretation of Scripture, so far as is necessary for them, and also the truest Sense of each particular Person's Duty to him. When a Person feels the faithful Witness of God in his Conscience, condemning him for what is wrong, and approving him for what is right, does he not find it to speak more clearly, particularly, and convictingly to his Case and State, than he can read it in the Scriptures ? Can he then conclude, that

* Useless without Light.

that this truly-distinguishing and most striking Witness, is less than that *Spirit of Truth*, or *Comforter*, which *convinceth the World of Sin, of Righteousness, and of Judgment?* John xvi. 8.

Speaking of Persons unenlightened, I observed that “ every Man’s Sense of Scripture, “ is his Scripture, and when he proposes his “ Opponent shall be determined by Scripture, “ he means according to his own Apprehension “ of the Sense of it.” This S. N. applies equally to Mens Apprehensions of the Illuminations of the Spirit within them; and I allow, it holds equally against those Pretenders to the Spirit’s Illuminations, who are in Reality void of them; but it will by no Means conclude against the really Enlightened; nor will his following Argument prove that no Man is enlightened. “ For,” saith he, P. 10. “ what *John Reeve* and *Lodowick Mugleton* “ thought to be the Mind of the Spirit within “ them, *William Penn* and his Brethren denied; and what these thought to be the “ Mind of the Holy Ghost, the former rejected as spurious.” This shews, that the Pretensions of *both* Parties could not be right, but not that *neither* of them were so, any more than it would prove the Apostle *Paul*, and *Acts xiii.* *Elimas* the Sorcerer, or *Jeremiah* and *Hananiah*, equally wrong in their Pretensions. 8. Jer. xxviii

When Christ, after his Resurrection, *opened* Luke xxiv. 45. *the Understandings of his Disciples that they might understand the Scriptures*, was not the Divine Illumination in their Understandings, a more clear, certain and superior Evidence of the Sense of them, than all their Reading and Study could have afforded them, without such

Illumination? Are Mankind now become so much more wise and penetrating, than those who for Years had the Benefit of hearing him who is perfect in Wisdom, that they have no Need of his Assistance to open their Understandings? Or is their School and College Learning so perfect, as to render God's Illumination quite needless? Are the innumerable Clashings and Janglings of the Book-learned about the Sense of Scripture, a Proof of the Unity of their Sentiments, and the Verity of their Sense of disputed Texts? If so, Discord may be a Proof of Harmony, and Fighting of Agreement.

From what is past, I trust, it will appear that our Opposer's *more certain Criterion*, P. 3. is only such in his own Imagination. How can that be the *certain Criterion*, about the Meaning of which all the Uncertainty arises? It is certain, without Divine Illumination, every Reader of Texts of a dubious Sense, accepts them in the Sense his Prepossessions make for him; which is the Cause of the innumerable Differences amongst professing Christians. *R. Barclay* therefore justly denies, that *Divine inward Revelations* are to be subjected to the Test either of the outward Testimony of the Scriptures, or of the natural Reason of Man, as to a *more noble, or certain Rule or Touchstone*.



C H A P. XII.

1. S. N.'s *Reasoning not pertinent.* 2. *His charging me with Mistake, an Error of his own.* 3. *His Observation answered.* 4. *His Mis-construction and Mis-application of 2 Tim. iii. 15, &c. and its Antinomian Consequences refuted.* 5. *What true Gospel-Faith comprehends.*

1. **P**AGE 7. To introduce a week Argument, S. N. queries, "Is the real Nature of the Spirit to be known either by mere Feelings, or metaphysical Speculations?" Answ. The Divine Nature which the Faithful, in Measure, have been made Partakers of, they have known by a Divine Sensation of its *Influence*, communicated only by itself; as nothing but the Sun itself can reveal and impart its own Light and Warmth.

Ibid. "They must tell us what these Feelings are like?" Answ. They are not like any Thing the natural Man is acquainted with. "The natural Man receiveth not the Things 1 Cor. ii. of the Spirit of God, for they are *Foolishness unto him*; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

Ibid. "It is not conceived, however, that they can find out his *Essence*." Answ. They do not presume to find out his *Essence*. They are content with, and thankful for, the Dispen-sations he is pleased to make of his *Influence*; which this Author, P. 8. injudiciously jumbles together with Views, Sentiments, Effects, Production, Creature, &c. Whereas the *Influ-*

ence shed by the *Effence* is not of its Creation, but an Emanation of its own Nature, Power and Quality, which produceth those Effects in the Creature, as the Potential Influence of the Sun, is of the Nature and Quality of the Sun, producing its salutary Effects in external Nature, and sensibly operating upon sensitive Creatures, so as to enable them to see by its Light, and to feel the comforting Warmth of its Presence, as well as truly to discover its Productions in and around them.

Having indiscriminately confounded Things that differ, *S. N.* proceeds thus to syllogize upon it.

“ That which is not known, felt or discerned in its real Nature, cannot be a Rule of Action to any One, superior to its own Influence, Effects or Productions.

“ The Holy Spirit is not known, felt or discerned in his real Nature, by any *Quaker* or others, but *only his Influence, Effects,*” &c.

“ Therefore he cannot be in his own real Nature a Rule of Action to them, superior to his own Productions, Effects and Influence.”

This demonstrates how void of Truth and Probability Logic may be in a sophistical Hand. For, How should any Thing be a Rule superior to its Influence, when its Influence is that by which it rules? And with what Propriety is its Influence, and the Effects and Productions of that Influence placed under the same Predicament? This Argument evidently insinuates, 1. That the Influence of the Holy Spirit is no more of its real Nature, than the Works and Effects produced by it; which is the

the same Thing as to say, The Influence of the Sun in the Firmament, that is, *his Beams*, which irradiate his distinguishing Light, and shed his animating Warmth, are no more of his real Nature, than the Wax he softens, or the Clay he hardens. 2. That the rational Soul feels and discerns the Influence of the Spirit, without any real Sense of the Nature of the Spirit. This appears to me just as true, as that we see by the Light of the Sun, without any Perception of that Light, and are corporeally animated by its Warmth, without ever feeling it. 3. That if the essential Fullness of the Divine Being do not come into immediate Contact with the Soul of Man, he cannot have any sensible Perception of God's Nature by his Divine Influence; which is like asserting, that the powerful Influence of the Sun cannot be sensibly perceived by a Man, unless the Body of the Sun immediately touch his Body.

2. Having noted in my Observation, P. 14, 15, from *John* v. 39, that the Pharisees rested upon the Scriptures, and would not apply to Christ, my Opponent answers, P. 11. " Our Saviour, however, seems to give a different Account of the Matter; for he frequently tells them, *Mat.* xv. 6. *Mark* vii. 13. that they made the Word of God of none Effect, through their Traditions; how then could they be said to rest upon it?" Answ. The Reason our Saviour gives, why they should, or did search the Scriptures, is, " For, in them ye think ye have eternal Life." If *they thought* to have eternal Life in the Scriptures, they certainly, in that Sense, *rested upon them*
for

for it, and not upon Christ, the only Saviour, to whom they would not come that they might have it. As to their making the Word, or Command of God, of none Effect through their Traditions, that was spoken at a different Time, and appears not to relate to the Object of their Dependence for eternal Life, therefore cannot either with Propriety or Prudence, be urged in Contradiction to what he here asserted. The Text, I apprehend, may be thus understood. *Search, or rather, ye search the Scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal Life.* You think so, but are mistaken, for they are not the Life, but come from the Life, *and they are they which testify of me, who am the Life; yet ye stick in them as your Life, and ye will not come to me, the Life, that ye might have Life;* therefore, notwithstanding your Dependence upon the Scriptures, ye remain in a State of Death, resting upon the Letter only, without the Knowledge of the Spirit.

3. P. 12. S. N. says, "It deserves to be particularly noted, that our Lord never once blames them for not attending to the *Light within.*" I think, it merits more particular Notice, that if he doth not blame them *in Terminus*,* for not attending to it, he does more, by shewing them the Condemnation that accrues to those who neglect it. "This is *the Condemnation*, that Light is come into the World, and *Men loved Darkneſs rather than Light;* because their Deeds *were Evil.* For every One, that doth Evil *hateth the Light, neither cometh to the Light,* lest his Deeds should be reproved. But he that doth Truth *cometh to the Light*" (or attends

John iii.
19—21.

* In Terms.

to it) “ that his Deeds may be made manifest, “ that *they are wrought in God.*” That is, under the Influence of his Spirit. For, “ God,” saith the Apostle, “ who commanded ^{2 Cor. iv. 6.} the Light to shine out of Darkness, *hath shined in our Hearts, to give the Light of the Knowledge of the Glory of God, in the Face of Jesus Christ.*”

The *Light of God shining in the Heart*, is certainly a *Light within*, and this Light comes in the Face, or Appearance, of Jesus Christ, which Appearance therefore, *must be within*, and ought in Duty to be attended to.

4. Ibid. I am unjustly charged with a *Design to lessen the Importance*, and shew the Insufficiency of the Scriptures ; because I said, that “ though they are sufficient to make *the Man of God* perfect, through Faith which “ is in Christ Jesus, yet they are not able to “ make the *sinful Man*, the *corrupt Man* perfect, “ who hath not this Divine Faith of the Operation of God, by which the Victory is “ obtained.” Against this, *S. N.* cites 2 *Tim.* iii. 15—17, and saith, “ *Paul then here asserts*, “ that the Scriptures are able to make a Person “ (who was not so before, or was not so without them, and *must therefore be sinful and corrupt*) wise unto Salvation, or in other “ Words, a *Man of God*, through Faith, &c.”

If to perfect the Man of God, and to change the corrupt Sinner into a Man of God, be the same Thing ; or, if the Man of God, and the sinful Man ; the Regenerate, and the Unregenerate ; the Prophet, and the Profligate ; be One and the same, the Apostle saith it ; but if they are not so, *he asserts no such Thing.*

Writing,

1 Tim. vi.
1.

Writing, in this Place, to his beloved Brother in Christ, *Timothy*, who in his former Epistle, he styles *a Man of God*, he addresses him in particular with this Expression: "From
 " a Child *thou* hast known the Holy Scrip-
 " tures, which are able to make *thee* wise unto
 " Salvation, through Faith which is in Christ
 " Jesus. * All Scripture given by Inspiration,
 " is profitable for Doctrine, for Reproof, for
 " Correction, for Instruction in Righteousness,
 " that *the Man of God may be perfect, thoroughly*
 " *furnished* unto all good Works." This cannot with Propriety be extended to any but *Timothy*, and such as *Timothy*; true Believers in, and Followers of Christ. To add Wisdom to the Man of God, the regenerate Man, in order to his Perfection in Divine Knowledge, appears to me a very different Thing from the making a sinful corrupt Man Holy, or turning a gross and miserable Sinner into a Saint; for this, according to Scripture, is the peculiar Work of the Holy Spirit; as I have already made appear.

The Scriptures *Timothy* had been instructed in from his Childhood, could hardly be any other than those of the Old Testament; and all they could here be meant to do for the Man of God, must be to afford him Instruction in the Way of Righteousness; to add to his own Experience, the Experiences of those before him in that Line. For to suppose they were sufficient to regenerate and perfect the sinful corrupt Man, is more than they are able now to do, even with the New Testament added to them.

The

* I cite this as it ought to be translated.

The sinful corrupt Man is certainly he that abides in sinful Practices; and the Apostle saith, "He that committeth Sin is of the Devil." Will S. N. assert, that *the Man of God, and he who is of the Devil*, are the same? Then Christ and Belial are united in the same Person, Light and Darkness may accord with each other, and that which separates from God may be joined to him.

1 John iii.
8.

I do not think so injuriously of my present Antagonist, as to believe he really intends what the Doctrine I oppose ultimately results in; but I judge this a proper Opportunity to caution against such corrupt and dangerous Positions as some have publicly avowed.

1. That Man, at the same Time he is actually unrighteous in himself, is righteous in Christ. That is, he is not what he is in Reality, but what he persuades himself to be, by a false Imagination concerning the Sacrifice of Christ; like that *Generation who are pure in their own Eyes, yet are not washed from their Filthiness.*

PROV. XXX.
12.

2. That the supreme Essence of immutable Truth, looks upon Man in a false Light; esteeming him pure, whilst he knows him to be sinful and corrupt.

3. That Christ, the Truth, is a false Medium, shewing the States of Men contrary to what they are in Reality.

4. That Man is the Servant of Christ, whilst he is under the Influence of Antichrist; that he is imputatively Holy, whilst he is ruled by the Author of Pollution, the Adversary of all Holiness; and that he is acting in the Will of God, whilst he is doing the Works of the Devil;

Rom. vi. 16. Devil ; notwithstanding we read, “ To whom
 “ ye yield yourselves Servants to obey, his
 “ Servants ye are to whom ye obey ; whether
 “ of Sin unto Death, or of Obedience unto
 “ Righteousness.”

It is a vain Delusion for any to expect, that Purity in the highest Perfection should unite with them, whilst they remain in the very Cause of Separation from him. Sin made the Separation at first, and the Continuance of it continues the Separation. If it be queried, Did not Christ die to reconcile Sinners to God? I answer, Yes ; but not to reconcile God to Sin, nor to save Sin. He suffered not to purchase a License for Sinners to continue such ; but to open the Way for them to come to Repentance, through the Gift of God procured by him ; for, saith he, “ Except ye repent, “ ye shall all likewise perish.” He came not to *uphold*, but to *destroy* the Works of the Devil ; which include all Manner of Sin and Corruption. “ Know ye not,” saith the Man of God, “ that the Unrighteous shall not “ inherit the Kingdom of God? Be not deceived ; neither Fornicators, nor Idolaters, “ nor Adulterers, nor Effeminate, nor Abusers “ of themselves with Mankind, nor Thieves, “ nor Covetous, nor Drunkards, nor Revilers, “ nor Extortioners, shall inherit the Kingdom “ of God.” The Notion of imputative Righteousness to such as remain in the Commission of these Evils, therefore, is a vain and pernicious Error.

We must die to Sin, or we cannot live to God ; and in Proportion as we die to Sin, we live in Christ, and no further. We must *put*

on *Christ*, by true Faith and Obedience, which are never separate; for that is a false Faith which abides in, or satisfies any, without Obedience, “ Faith without Works is dead,” Jam. ii. 26. saith the Servant of Christ, and “ shew me thy Verse 18. Faith without thy Works, and I will shew thee my Faith by my Works.”

The Law saith, Do, or avoid this, and live. The Gospel not only forbids the outward Act, but also restrains the inward Desire and Motion towards it. The Law saith, Thou shalt not kill; nor commit Adultery; nor forswear thyself, &c. The Gospel commands, Give not Place to Anger; thou shalt not lust; swear not at all, &c. In this Manner, the Gospel destroys not the moral Law, but fulfils it, by taking away the Ground of sinful Acts, and laying the Ax of the Spirit to the Root of Corruption.

Can the Considerate imagine, that the everlasting Source of Wisdom and Might, can be at a Loss how to expel Satan's Kingdom in Man whilst upon Earth? Or can they think him so delighted with Men's Offences against his Purity and Goodness, as *to will* that Satan should reign over his Creatures to the last Moment of their Lives? Is it not more to his Glory to deliver from the Power of Evil, and to save both from Sin here, and Misery hereafter, than to save only from Wretchedness in Futurity? Is a Part greater than the Whole? Or, is an incomplete Deliverance preferable, or more glorious than that which is perfect?

When Doctrines opposite to Purification of Heart, and Holiness of Life, are industriously propagated, it stands every One in hand to be alarmed,

alarmed, left, by giving Place to them in their Minds, they become blinded through *the Deceitfulness of Sin*; which will center them at last in a Fool's Paradise, instead of the City of God, the Heavenly *Jerusalem*, into which *nothing that defileth, that worketh Abomination, or maketh a Lie, shall in any wise enter.*

5. The Ability in the Scriptures, as before cited, to enlarge the Man of God in saving Wisdom, the Apostle saith, is *through Faith which is in Christ Jesus*. S. N. resolves this *saving Faith* into a Belief of those Parts of the Old Testament, which related particularly to Christ, to which he adds the like Parts of the New Testament.

What true Gospel-Faith is, let us a little consider. As the Entrance of the Divine Word quickeneth the Soul, so it first communicates a Degree of Faith, through which it operates; for true Faith is *the Gift of God*, and the Holy Spirit is *the Spirit of Faith*; which is, not a bare Belief of Truths concerning Christ, but a Faith *in him*. The Faith *in Christ* is not comprised in giving Credit to Narrations and Doctrines, and a Mode of Practice framed by the Wisdom of Men upon it; for that centers short of the essential Substance of Faith. Gospel-Faith in Man believes the Truth of all that is revealed by the Spirit, both in the Heart, and in the Sacred Writings; because it feels it, favours it, and is one with it. It not only *assents* to the scriptural Accounts of the Incarnation and whole Process of Christ in *Judea*; but it also *receives* his internal Appearance, *consents* to his Operation, and *concurs* with it.

That

Rev. xxi.
27.

1 Cor. xii.
9, and Col.
ii. 12.
2 Cor. iv.
13.
2 Tim. iii.
17.

That Faith which stands wholly upon Hear-say, Tradition, Reading, or Imagination, is but a distant Kind of ineffectual Credence, which permits the Soul to remain in the Bondage of Corruption. The Wicked may go this Length towards Gospél-Faith; but the true Faith lays hold of, and cleaves to the Spirit of Truth, in its inward Manifestations, wherein it stands, and whereby it grows, till the Heart is purified, the World overcome, and Salvation obtained.

This Faith is as a Flame of pure Love in the Heart to God. It presseth towards him, panteth after him, resigns to him, confides and lives in him. The *Mystery of it is held in* ^{1 Tim. iii.} *a pure Conscience,* and in the effective Power ^{9.} of the Everlasting Gospel; whence *the Christian Dispensation* in Holy Writ, is often distinguished from the exterior Dispensation of the *Mosaic Law*, and the prior Administration of Angels in visible Appearances, by the Appellation of FAITH.

Though the Term Faith is occasionally used by the Pen-men of Scripture in divers, yet not contrary, but consistent Senses, this seems to be the *One* standing Faith mentioned, *Eph. iv. 5.* which *is in Christ Jesus*, as it is the Fruit of his Grace and good Spirit in the Heart. Through this the Scriptures become effectually instructive to the Man of God, and helpful to the real Christian in the Way of Life and Salvation. It is the Faith by which the Members of Christ truly *live*, and abide as such. It is their invincible *Shield*; and *the Knowledge of Christ in them*, is the Proof of their possessing it. Abundance is said of the Nature, Power, and Effects of this all-con-
Rom. i. 17
Gal. ii. 20,
and iii. 11.
Heb. x. 38
Eph. vi. 16
2 Cor. xiii
5. Heb. xi.
quering

quering Faith ; but I hope, this will be sufficient to shew, though in its complete Sense, it includes a Belief of *all that is said of Christ, and by Christ*, in Holy Writ, it goes deeper, and ariseth not in Man merely from the Man, but takes its Birth, and receives its Increase from the Operation of the Holy Spirit in him ; which works by it to the Sanctification of the Heart, and the Production of every Christian Virtue.



C H A P. XIII.

1. S. N.'s *saving Ability of the Scriptures considered.* 2. *His wrong Reasoning from the Plea of the Papists.* 3. *Spiritual Things how understood.* 4. *Barclay defended from the Charge of arguing in a false Circle.* 5. *George Fox rescued from S. N.'s illiberal Abuses.*

1. **S.** N. says, P. 14. "No more than what *we assert of the Ability of Scripture* have the Apologist or his Defenders said of "the Light within." It may be so ; but where is the Proof of this, that himself and his Coadjutors assert concerning the *saving Ability* of the Scriptures ? Why thus it follows. " *We also say, the Scriptures will make us wise unto Salvation, if we attend to the Sense of them, believe it, and so become influenced by it, therefore they are able to save.*"

I have already shewn, that *he mistakes the Sense* of the Text above-mentioned, which is
not

not the only One by many, how then should he *attend to*, *believe*, and be *influenced* by the Sense who has it not? And, how should he be saved by the Sense of that he does not understand? I hope his Salvation will be better founded than his Argument; for this hath no firmer Basis than bare Assertion. “ *We say*, “ *the Scriptures*,” &c. *therefore* they are able to save. But I have said enough before to this Point.

2. P. 15. He reminds me, that the *Papists* plead, “ The Scriptures are not the supreme Guide; for they do not answer the End, that is, the reconciling of Differences; for those who pretend most to consult the Scriptures, do most of all disagree in Matters of Faith, and in their Interpretation of the Scripture.”

No Protestant of a sound Understanding can deny the Truth of this; for more religious Differences have arisen, and still subsist, about the Sense of Scripture, than any Thing else. There is therefore Need of an infallible Interpreter; which is *the Spirit of Truth*, whence they came, and who is ^{John xvi.} *measurably given to guide into all Truth*. The Error of the *Papists* ^{13.} stands not in asserting the undeniable Diversities amongst Men, concerning the Sense of Scripture, but in setting up a visible carnal Head, instead of the invisible spiritual Head of the Church; a Succession of fallible Men, under the Pretence of their being infallibly empowered, officially and finally to determine Doctrines for, and direct the Consciences of all others; and those who approach the nearest to this Part of *Popery*, are such as pretend their own private,
or

or peculiar Interpretations, are the *true Sense* of the Scriptures, and who seek to impose them upon others as such.

3. P. 18. S. N. expresses an Imagination, that *Barclay* meant by *Right Reason*, “ not the Faculty of the Understanding itself, but that Reasoning or Argument which is conformable to *the true Relation of Things*.” I must suppose him to intend here, *the true Relation of spiritual Things*; for those are what we have here to do with. But what will this avail him? By what Means will he assure us, that his Understanding is adequate to *this Relation*, and to what is, or is not conformable to it? Spiritual Things are the Things of God, and saith Holy Writ, “ The Things of God knoweth no Man, but the Spirit of God;” therefore the Apostle declares, “ We have received, not the Spirit of the World, but the Spirit which is of God; that *we might know* the Things that are freely given to us of God.”—“ But the natural Man *receiveth not* the Things of the Spirit of God, for *they are Foolishness unto him; neither can he know them*, because they are spiritually discerned.” Hence it is clear, that he who hath not the Knowledge of spiritual Things, by the Manifestation of the Spirit of God, hath not the true Knowledge of them, imagine what he will of his other Acquirements; and he must find himself at last upon the sandy Foundation of vain Opinion.

The Apostle follows this by asserting, “ The spiritual Man judgeth all Things.” That is, the Man who is rendered spiritual, by the renewing Influence of the Holy Spirit, has, through

through the Shining of Divine Light upon his Mind, a clear Discerning of all those spiritual Matters it concerns him to know ; which it is impossible for the natural Man rightly to comprehend.

4. P. 21. “ The Apologist has Recourse to
 “ the Scriptures, to prove to us the Necessity
 “ of immediate Inspiration for all Persons, but
 “ when he will convince us of the Truth and
 “ Certainty of the Scriptures, he turns back
 “ again to his peculiar Notion of the Revela-
 “ tion of the Spirit in every Man.” Strange
 Logic indeed !

What Conclusion is more natural, than to determine what a Tree is by its Fruit ; or what the Fruit is by the Tree ? Men do not gather Grapes of Thorns, nor Figs of Thistles ; but when they see a Fig-tree, they know its Fruit must be Figs ; and when they see a Grape, they know it to be the Fruit of the Vine. In this Manner the Holy Spirit and the Scriptures, where both are known, bear mutual Testimony to each other, by a Demonstration above all Logic, and out of the Reach of Sophistry. What *Barclay*, therefore, urges in this Case, is the reciprocal Testimony of the Spirit with the Scriptures, as the clearest and best Convincement of both to the Mind of Man, and this not so much by Way of Argument to the Head, as Appeal to the Conscience.

5. P. 22. Our Opponent falls upon *George Fox*, whom he represents in no very candid Manner. He takes upon him to contradict those concerning him, who for many Years were personally acquainted with him, and his
 L Conduct,

Conduct, and who, both from the Opportunities they had, and the Abilities they possessed, were much better Judges both of the Man, and the Reality of the Facts, than he can possibly be. What he calls his *fair and just Examination*, is a mere Train of Invektive and Abuse, relating to Matters transacted long before he was born into the World; and which his notorious Prejudice renders him unfit to determine upon. Having pursued *George Fox*, with great Warmth, through eight or nine Pages, and sufficiently heated his Spirits, he fastens upon his singular Concern at *Litchfield*, in 1651. Upon which I shall drop the following Observations.

It has pleased the Divine Being at Times, to require Things of his devoted Servants, which must appear *very foolish* to the Wisdom of the World; but “ he hath chosen *the foolish* “ *Things* of the World to confound the Wise.” Might not such an Act as this simply related by *George Fox*, be required of him, in Part, to try, or to give him an Opportunity of exercising, his Faith and Obedience, and also to alarm a People too secure in false Rests, and carnal Indulgences? He represents the Apprehension he had of it, was to *revive the Memorial of their Predecessors, and their deep Sufferings for the Cause of Christ*; which, in Divine Wisdom, might be proper to a Generation immersed in a State of Degeneracy, and Forgetfulness of God, and to shew them the Wo that would attend a Continuance in a degenerate Life and Practice. With the same View, Woes, have been pronounced by divers of God’s inspired Messengers, as we read in Scripture,
and

and what mighty Hurt or Scandal accrued from this, that it must be interpreted in the worst Sense possible to be put upon it? What but Ignorance, or an invidious and malevolent Disposition, would see nothing else in the Case, but *arrant Villany, rank Enthusiasm, gross and melancholy Fanaticism, loquacious Lunacy, and diabolical Possession?*

If *G. Fox* had from a Divine Impulse, found it his Concern *to go naked* for three Years together, as the Prophet *Isaiah* did; or *to lay* Isai. xx.
Siege to a Tile, in a cumbent Posture, and bake Ezek. iv.
his Bread with Dung, for the Space of fifteen Months, as *Ezekiel* did; it would as surely have drawn down the Resentment of *S. N.* upon him, and would have been altogether as just a Foundation for his Asperity.

With Respect to miraculous Testimonials; when I consider the many gross Impositions of that Kind, under Names delivered down to us with great Veneration, and fainted in the *Romish* Church, I do not admire that thinking Persons, not sufficiently experienced in the Divine Life, should be inclined to disbelieve any modern Narratives of supernatural Tokens. But this Difference is evidently observable, between the few related by *George Fox*, and his Friends, and the many by *Papish* Writers. These industriously propagated their miraculous Legends for a Name; for the Support of unscriptural Superstition, and separate Interests, monastic Institutions, the Adoration of Relicks, and of the blessed Virgin, the Invocation of Saints, real or nominal, Prayers for the De-parted, Image-worship, their deified Sacrament, the formal Sign of the Cross, consecrated

Oil, &c. But *G. Fox* never once pretended to a Power of working Miracles to the People where he came, to open a Door amongst them for the Reception of himself, or the Principles he spread; nor was it necessary he should, since they had been already miraculously attested, in the first planting of Christianity. For, the Fundamentals he preached were, Christ once in the Flesh, and always in Spirit, as the Light and Life of Men, the Mediator, the Propitiation, the Intercessor, the potential and actual Redeemer, offered for all, and to all, and the especial Saviour of all that believe in him so as to obey him; with the Necessity of Regeneration in Man, and the Practice of every Moral and Christian Virtue.

Is it nothing extraordinary, that a Person so obscure and illiterate, so little conversant amongst Men, so uneducated in Arts, Languages and Sciences, so unversed in the various Modes of Divinity, by Turns in Fashion, uninstructed, unprovided, unprotected by Men, should singly and alone, launch into the troubled Sea of a tempestuous fluctuating World, and in direct Opposition to all the Pride, Policy and Power of a learned and lucrative Priesthood, and a prejudiced People with a bigotted Magistracy at their Head; that such an One, by the simple Doctrine of the Cross of Christ, should be made instrumental to the turning of Thousands, not from Form to Form, but from Darkness to Light; from the Power of Satan, to the Power of God; from a Death in Sin, to the Life of Righteousness; from habitual Vice, to a Course of Virtue; inso-much that some judicious Magistrates declared,
the

the People raised through his Ministry, eased their Hands of much Trouble, and had it not been for the Spreading of this Principle of Divine Light, the Nation would have been over-run with Ranterism, and Licentiousness! In this great and good Work, *G. Fox*, with the People he had been instrumental to raise, stood with unabated Courage and Constancy, and were enabled, with undaunted Fortitude, to bear up against near forty Years cruel Persecution, with small Intervals, both from royal and republican Parties, as each ascended the Scale of national Power. This he was favoured to see an End of, before his Removal beyond the Noise of Archers, and out of the Reach of Envy and Malignity.

Notwithstanding the invidious Misrepresentations made concerning him, no Marks of Insincerity, Artifice or Imposture appeared in his Conduct, nor of Interest or Ambition in his Views. He sought not to gather People to himself, but *to Christ alone*. He made no Pretences to work Miracles, in Confirmation of his Mission, whilst he travelled and laboured amongst his Fellow-creatures; but, in his Journal, which he left behind him in Manuscript, he acknowledges the Goodness and Power of God, in giving extraordinary Proofs at Times, according to his Pleasure, that he attended some of them, with a Measure of the same Divine Power, which formerly accompanied divers of the primitive Ministers in a much larger Degree.

But notwithstanding the Principles we profess, are evidently scriptural, and *depend not upon*, nor as *S. N.* mistakenly asserts, *stand or fall* Page 29.

fall together with any Relations of miraculous Appearances, either in *G. Fox's Journal*, or the Writings of his Co-temporaries; which Relations are *purely incidental*, and appeared not till many Years after the Settlement of the Society. Yet, as he was an useful, eminent, and honourable Member of our religious Body, we are not unconcerned in his Veracity, and therefore require better Proofs against it than the Surmises, Presumptions, and Disguises of Prejudice. What he relates of the Facts, he asserts upon his own Knowledge of them, and divers are witnessed to by others as well as himself. Can *S. Newton* assert the Contrary, upon his certain Knowledge of the Falseness of those Relations; or has he demonstrated the Truth of them to be impossible? No such Matter. They are such as have always been; and what have been may be. *George Fox's* Integrity is too well attested, to be destroyed by Imaginations, Innuendoes, and Invectives. Lucre, Preferment, the Avoidance of Disadvantage, Distress, or Abuse, have operated upon the Hopes and Fears of many; but never appeared to have shaken, or weighed with him. Such was the Strength of his Faith, and the internal Support which attended him. He was no Sect-master. He sought neither external Benefits, nor the Honour that is from below. He traded not in Religion. He truckled not to the corrupt Humours or Dispositions of any. He called the People out of that Apostacy from the Holy Spirit of God they were too generally sunk into, and out of those carnal Ordinances which could not truly profit them, nor contribute to Renovation of Heart,

Heart, and Reformation in Life and Practice. Neither did himself, nor those who became connected with him, divide from others for Separation-sake, but to join together in following *the One Everlasting Shepherd* of the true Sheep. To *him* they gathered, and in the Life and Love of the Gospel, became united to him in Spirit, as *their only Head*, and one to another as Brethren. They learnt to call no Man *Master* in a religious Sense, and to know that the true Church is not the Church of *Peter*, of *Paul*, or of *Apollos*; that it owns but one Head, the Lord Jesus Christ; whose Followers they professed to be, and not the Followers of *G. Fox*, *R. Barclay*, *W. Penn*, or any other, further than they followed him. These they never looked upon as Heads of, but Brethren in the Society, never styled themselves by their Names, nor allowed them any other Estimation, than that *double Honour* required by the Apostle, to those who are doubly serviceable. 1 Tim. v.
17.

It is too probable from the Sacred Writings to be denied, that the Almighty, both before the Institution of the *Mosaic* Law, and during its Continuance, all along, at Seasons, occasionally manifested apparent Tokens of his supernatural Power, through those he particularly concerned to hold up the Mirror of true Religion in its genuine Purity, and to revive and restore it when lost, or to a great Degree obscured amongst its Professors; and why should it appear an Absurdity to suppose, that since the primitive Age of Christianity, he should see fit sometimes on like Occasions, to add Sanctions of like Nature? When I find
such

such Instances testified to by Men of Understanding, Integrity, and disinterested Christian Piety, upon their own Knowledge of the Facts, I see no just Ground to discredit their Attestations, because Persons manifestly prejudiced against them, and confessedly insensible of the Influence and Operation of the Holy Spirit, have settled themselves in an Opinion, that they are to remain for ever to be discontinued under the Administration of the Gospel, though continued occasionally throughout all former Dispensations. I have met with no Reason sufficient to warrant me to conclude, that the great Minister of the Sanctuary might not see proper, in the last Century, to add some Instances of this Kind, to the Services of his disinterested and devoted Servants, for their Encouragement, to stem the Torrent of Opposition against the Revival of his Truth in its Purity, when Formality and Hypocrisy on one Hand, Licentiousness and Profaneness on the other, with Jarring and Violence on all Sides raged against them; as if nothing less was meant than their utter Extinction.



C H A P. XIV.

1. S. N.'s *Insinuation, that I prefer the Apology to the New Testament, with the Imaginations he grounds it upon, answered. Herein the true Gospel is shewn, and the People professing it defended.* 2. *Answers to his Queries concerning the Oeconomy of the Quakers, wherein the Nature and Manner of their Worship is explained.* 3. *An Abuse obviated, and the Scriptures placed in their proper Light.* 4. *The Futility of S. N.'s Remark concerning the Prophecies I adduced.* 5. *My Inadvertence in one of my Expressions acknowledged, and my Sense cleared.* 6. *Concerning Revelation objective and subjective, immediate and instrumental.* 7. *My Opponent's Instance of Balaam answered.* 8. *His Artifice remarked, in perverting our Words to serve his own Purpose.*

1. **S.** N. in his Letter, Page 9, indirectly insinuated, that the *Quakers read more, and form their Sentiments more from the Apology than the New Testament.* Knowing this to be untrue, I denied it of the Generality of that People, and queried with him, "If he intended it of particular Persons, who are they?" In Answer to this Question, P. 47, he now assumes the Charge of *Nathan upon David*, and roundly asserts to me, "thou art the Man." But how I should be the Man he meant when he penned that Suggestion, is mysterious to me, seeing *then* he certainly was perfectly

perfectly unacquainted with me. But it seems, for Want of another, I must be the Man, because *he can't help thinking*, P. 46, that I assert or insinuate, 1. "What *the Apostles* have "spoken and written is not the Gospel." 2. "That *the real Meaning* of their Writings is "only a *dry Theory*." 3. "That the Gospel in "Fact is *an inexplicable Substance* within all "Men, whether they know any Thing of the "Character and Redemption of Christ, as "represented in the New Testament, or not." 4. "That *the Whole* of our Salvation depends "solely upon an inward Power and Virtue, "without *the Influence of the inspired Senti-* "ments of the Book of God."

If I may be allowed to speak my own Sense, what I have asserted, and do believe, respecting these Points, is, 1. That the evangelic and apostolic Writings are *descriptive and declarative* of the Gospel, which *therein* is defined to be *the Power of God unto Salvation*; that *Christ is the Power of God*, who spiritually and internally administers Light and Life to the Souls of Men, which *spiritual and powerful Administration*, is the *essential Gospel*; and that, both those Parts of Scripture, which bear Testimony to the Incarnation and outward Process of Christ, and those that witness to his inward Ministration in Spirit, whether narrative or doctrinal, being the best and most eminent *written Testifications* of the Gospel, are therefore, by a Metonymy, usually called by its Name.

2. In my Observations, from P. 36 to 43, I fully made appear, that *the real Meaning* of the apostolic Writings is *not a dry Theory*, but
a strong

a strong Recommendation of the living and sensible Operation of the Power of God.

3. The Reader may see in my Answers to the first of these Articles, and other Parts of this Treatise, that *I do not hold the Gospel to be in Fact an inexplicable Substance, &c.* But that it is not to be truly and certainly known without Divine Illumination; for, “The ^{1 Cor. ii. 11.} Things of God knoweth no Man, but the “Spirit of God.” We read, that “Life and ^{2 Tim. i. 10.} Immortality are brought to Light by the “Gospel.” But what is this Life and Immortality? Did not Mankind believe in a future State, before the Incarnation of Christ? Yes, certainly: Both Jews and Gentiles believed and held the Truth of it. What Life and Immortality then is that which is *peculiar to the Gospel*, and which it is *its particular Property to unveil*? It consists not wholly in the Relation of the external Procedure and Doctrines of our Lord, but mainly in that spiritual Gift he procured for us through his Sufferings, which is *the Life and Power* that the immortal Spirit of God manifests in the believing and obedient Soul; that Spirit which quickens those who have been dead in Trespases and Sins, and *therein alienated from the* ^{Ephes. iv. 18.} *Life of God.* The very Essence of the Gospel, is the issuing forth of this Spirit of Life to the Hearts of Men. “Keep thy Heart with all ^{Prov. iv. 23.} “Diligence,” saith the wise Man, “for out “of it are *the Issues of Life.*” This teacheth that *these living Issues* arise *in* the Heart of Man, but not *from* the Heart itself. Was it so, the Heart or Soul would be its own Quickener and Saviour, and Christ would be excluded as such;

John xiv.
6.

such ; but *he alone is the Way, the Truth, and the Life*, therefore the issuings of Life to the Heart are from the Spirit, and in and through it by his Spirit. The Divine Influence of it is the Life of the Soul, that which renders it living, and void of this, it cannot be in a Gospel Sense, *a living Soul*. It may endure to Eternity ; but mere Duration is not this Divine Life. To exist without this Life, is to be scripturally dead ; it is therefore requisite for the Soul to wait for, feel after, and find this immortal Life, and also to keep to it *with all Diligence*, that it may experience the daily *Issues* thereof to its Comfort and Preservation, and to be as “ a Well of Water springing up “ into everlasting Life.”

John iv. 14

4. The Pretence that I assert, the Salvation of those who have the Privilege of perusing the Scriptures, depends *solely* upon an inward Power and Virtue, without those as a Means, is no Assertion of mine ; for my Words plainly indicate the contrary. I say, P. 14, “ We *do not pretend* that the internal Motion of “ the Spirit *is the only Means* of Reformation “ and Religion, to those who are likewise “ favoured with the Scriptures ; but highly “ prize, thankfully accept, and use them as the “ *best secondary Means extant.*” I also understand the propitiatory Sacrifice of our Saviour, by which he opens the Door of Reconciliation for us, to be the initiatory Part of Man’s Salvation, and the internal Work of Regeneration by his Spirit, to be its actual Completion ; for thereby an Entrance is administered into the Heavenly Kingdom.

Lastly,

Lastly, no Man can have *the Influence of the inspired Sentiments* of the Book of God, without *receiving those inspired Sentiments*, which I have sufficiently shewn, no Man hath who reads without the inspiring Power. Every Reader hath only *his own Conceptions* about the Sentiments inspired of God, and *not those real Sentiments*, without a Degree of Inspiration from him ; which the manifest Mistakes and Contradictions of many demonstrate they are Strangers to.

By all this, it must evidently appear, that S. N.'s Premises are so many Perversions, and his *Thou art the Man*, a groundless Accusation.

In his two next Paragraphs, S. N. demands an Exposure of some Matters relating to the internal Management of the Society in its own peculiar Affairs ; and though I am not convinced of his Authority for it, I'll give him a just Answer to his Queries, without returning his Incivilities.

1. The *Quakers* neither read the Scriptures, nor any Thing else, during the Time of their Worship, or as a Part of it, but after that is over, they usually once in the Year, take the Opportunity, before the Congregation separate, to read those short Informations and Advices which are transmitted from the Yearly-meeting in *London*. These Advices always consist of Scripture-quotations, and Doctrines agreeable to Scripture, according to the best of their Knowledge ; but the reading of them is no more a Part of their Worship, than the reading Testimonies of Denial against immoral Members,

bers, or the Substance of Briefs recommended by the Crown, at such Opportunities.

2. They give such Preference to the Scriptures above all other Writings, that they strictly press the frequent reading of them, and call for Answers at every Quarterly-meeting throughout the Society, and at the general Yearly-meeting in *London* from every particular Quarterly-meeting, whether the Holy Scriptures are constantly read in their Families, or not; which they neither do, nor ever did, respecting any of their own Writings, or any others.

3. The Society doth occasionally present, or recommend such of their Books as they think proper to give Information concerning their Principles, to obviate the Prejudices conceived, and industriously propagated against them; which they apprehend, they have as much Right to do, as their Adversaries have to misrepresent and calumniate them; and indeed, the Abuses of those are sufficient to oblige them to this Practice.

4. They do recommend Silence and Stillness in their religious Assemblies; and as our Manner of Worship is misunderstood by many, and often treated with Ridicule, I shall take this Opportunity to offer some Explanation of it.

We look upon Divine Worship to be the most solemn Act the Mind of Man is capable of being engaged in; and in Consideration of the high and inconceivable Majesty of Almighty God, think it our Duty to approach him with the greatest Reverence. Every thinking Person, who is in any Degree sensible of the Love
and

and Fear of God, must esteem it an awful Thing, to present himself to the especial Notice of the Infinite Omnipresent Eternal Being. Under a Sense of this, the wise Man adviseth, "Keep thy Foot when thou goest to the House of God," (or enters upon Worship) "and be more ready to hear, than to give the Sacrifice of Fools; for they consider not that they do Evil. *Be not rash with thy Mouth, and let not thine Heart be hasty to utter any Thing before God;* for God is in Heaven, and thou upon Earth, therefore let thy Words be few." He well knew, as he expresses it, that both "*The Preparation of the Heart, and the Answer of the Tongue* is from the Lord." This accords with what our Saviour saith, "Without me ye can do nothing." We, therefore, cannot perform Divine Worship acceptably but by his Assistance. This must be received in Spirit; for, saith the Apostle, "The Spirit also helpeth our Infirmities; for *we know not what we should pray for as we ought.*" This being as certainly our Case, as it was that of the Apostles and primitive Believers, it is incumbent on us to wait for that Spirit which is requisite to help our Infirmities, in order to pray as we ought. No Forms of Devotion or Mens Invention can supply the Place of the Spirit. The same Apostle further saith, "Through him we both *have an Access, by one Spirit unto the Father.*" Seeing therefore, that both our *Help* and *Access* is through the Spirit of Christ, the Renewal of which is at his Pleasure, and not ours, we must necessarily wait for it. This Waiting must be in *Stillness*

Ecclef. v. 1.

Prov. xvi. 1.

John xv. 5

Rom. viii. 26.

Eph. ii. 18

ness of Mind from the common Course of our own Thoughts, from all wandering Imaginations, and also in *Silence* from the Expression of Words ; for the Utterance of Words is not *waiting*, but acting.

Words are requisite to convey the Sense of one Person to another, but not to that Omniscient Being, who is an universal Spirit, and every where Almighty, who therefore stands not in Need, either of the Use of corporeal Organs, Instruments, or the Sound of Words, to communicate with the Spirit of Man.

If, in order to worship, the Mind do not settle into Stillness, the Passions will be at work, and may agitate it into enthusiastic Heats, and vague Imaginations. But in true Stillness, and Singleness of Soul towards God, they are silenced and subjected. The still small Voice of the Inspirer of all Good then comes to be heard, and the Mind being closely engaged in Attention thereunto, and answering it in Faith and humble Submission, feels Divine Life and Love spring up, and receives Ability therein, truly to worship the great Author of its Existence, and Heavenly Supplier of its Wants, with a Devotion no Forms can reach.

This Worship is not entered upon by totally laying aside our Faculties, and falling into a senseless Stupor, as superficial Observers have imagined, but by a real Introversion of Mind, and an Attention fixed singly upon the alone Object of all Adoration, in patient, yet fervent Desire after him. Thus, according to the *Hebrew*, the experienced Psalmist advises,

Pl. xxxvii.
7.

“ *Be silent to the Lord*, and wait patiently for him ;” and respecting his own Practice, he
faith,

faith, “ Truly *my Soul is silent upon God,*” Ibid. lxii. 1.
 adding this cogent Reason, “ from him cometh
 “ my Salvation.” Verse 5, he applies the
 Exhortation to himself. “ My Soul, wait
 “ thou *only upon God,* for my Expectation is
 “ from him.” Great Encouragement he had
 thus to wait, as appears *Pſalm xl.* where he
 faith, “ I waited patiently for the Lord, and
 “ he inclined unto me, and heard my Cry.
 “ He brought me up alſo out of an horrible
 “ Pit, out of the miry Clay, and ſet my Feet
 “ upon a Rock, and eſtabliſhed my Goings,
 “ and *he hath put* a new Song into my Mouth,
 “ even Praise unto our God.” This was no *new*
Song in itſelf, but being ſenſibly renewed to
 him in his acceptable Waiting, he, with
 ſufficient Propriety, ſtyles it ſo.

To the ſame practical and profitable Doc-
 trine *Jeremiah* bears Teſtimony. “ It is good Lam. iii. 26, 27, 28.
 “ that a Man ſhould both hope, and *quietly*
 “ *wait* for the Salvation” (or ſaving Help)
 “ of the Lord. It is good for a Man that he
 “ bear the Yoke in his Youth. He ſitteth
 “ alone, and *keepeth Silence,* becauſe he hath
 “ borne it upon him.

Silent Waiting was in Practice among the
 Prophets, and thoſe that attended them, as
 appears in the Prophecy of *Ezekiel.* We find
 the Spirit of the Prophet was engaged in
 Divine Viſion, whiſt the Elders of *Judah*
 ſate before him, as it is deſcribed from the 1ſt
 Verſe of the viiiith Chapter, to the 4th of the
 xith Chapter. During the Time of which
 Viſion, it cannot be conſiſtently ſuppoſed, that
 he was either ſpeaking to them, or they to him,
 or to each other. This was not a ſingular

Instance of their meeting together, for it was the Manner of God's People to congregate with the Prophets, as that close Reprehension plainly indicates. " They come unto thee as *the People cometh*, and *they sit before thee as my People*, and they hear thy Words, but *they will not do them.*"

In this solemn Practice, we have often been enabled thankfully to acknowledge, the Verity of that gracious Declaration of our Lord,

Mat. xviii. 20. " Where Two or Three are gathered together in my Name, there am I in the midst of them ;" the Fulfilling of that Promise,

Isa. xl. 31. " They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their Strength ;" the Certainty of that Assertion,

Lam. iii. 25. " The Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the Soul that seeketh him ;" and the Necessity and Authority of that just Command,

Psal. xlvi. 10. " Be still, and know that I am God."

As silent Waiting appears to us, in the first Place, requisite to the Worship of God in Spirit and Truth, it is always our Practice, for we believe he ought to have the Direction of our Hearts therein; and if he please to influence any One under due Preparation, vocally to appear, either by Way of Address to himself in Prayer, or to us in Preaching, we never preclude such Appearances, but silently assist according to our Measures. If it prove that none are so concerned to speak, we sit the Time through in Silence, wherein true mental Worship is often experienced; but never appoint any Meeting with Intent, that it shall be held throughout in Silence, as some have mistakenly imagined; for we believe, that all ought to be led and guided by the good Spirit

Spirit of God, more especially in the solemn Acts of Divine Worship. It would be an happy Thing, were all so led, amongst us as well as others, but the Case appears otherwise with too many, who sit unconcerned, in Expectation of hearing the Ministry, instead of waiting upon God, and therefore often meet with Disappointment. The Apostle said in his Age, "they are not all *Israel*, which are Rom. ix. 6 " of *Israel*." So we must acknowledge, all who have descended from faithful Ancestors, are not themselves faithful; but the Defect is in themselves, and not in the Principle.

5. We profess, that the Spirit of Truth ought to be ours, and every Man's Leader, and that this Spirit is an infallible Principle, and that so far as any faithfully follow it, they are infallibly led, and no further; but we *never did, nor do* profess, that all in Society with us *are so led*, or even sufficiently seek to be so. Nor was it the Case amongst the primitive Christians themselves. We well know, and freely own, that we have all sinned, and come short of the Glory of God, and that without Repentance and Regeneration, we must for ever fall short of it. We are also sensible, that upon due Confession, Submission, and sincere Obedience to the Manifestations of Christ, the Light of Men, "he is faithful and just to 1 John i. 9 " forgive us our Sins, and to cleanse us from " all Unrighteousness;" and if we " walk in Verse 7. " the Light, as he is in the Light, we have " Fellowship one with another, and the Blood " of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from all Sin." Could any Thing but either gross Ignorance, captious Envy, or Malevolence infer from this,

M 2

that

that we profess, *we all are*, or that any of us *always are* infallible? Yet so have our Doctrines been discoloured by our Adversaries from the Beginning, and in the same Track our present Opposer follows his Predecessors, repeatedly upbraiding us by Allegation, that there is some Difference both in Sentiment and Practice among us; but is it possible to be otherwise with any Body of People, whether less or more, whilst different Degrees of Capacity and Experience remain amongst them, as they ever must, and whilst any are deficient in paying that due Regard to the Principles they profess, which they ought to do?

3. S. N.'s subsequent Query, Page 47, has Reference to an Expression of mine, in Answer to his common, though improper, Manner of Reasoning, that is, drawing general Conclusions from particular Premises, and charging the Faults of particular Persons upon the general Body, which never espoused nor countenanced them. This I shewed to be a fallacious Practice, and instanced, that by this Manner of arguing, the Theft and Treachery of *Judas* might be charged upon the whole twelve Apostles, seeing he was one of them. Upon this my Opponent impertinently asks, "Did *our Lord*, and his Apostles countenance Theft or Treachery, as the *Quakers* do publicly and privately a Neglect of a *primary* and *principal Attention* to the Scriptures, as the *best Standard* of Faith and Practice?"

This appears intended to deceive the unwary Reader into a Notion, that in the preceding Remark, I have drawn a Reflection injurious to the Character of the Apostles, and to heighten

heighten the Prejudice, he irreverently foists in *our Lord* also, who is not once mentioned in the Paragraph. With Regard to the Scriptures, I have declared our Sense concerning them, and shall only add, that we hold them to be *the best written Standard* of Belief and Practice that we know of in the World. We venerate them for the Sake of the great Author they came from, and seek to him for the right Understanding and proper Use of them; believing *him* who alone can open the true Sense of them, and accompany it with Power to enable us effectually to put it in Practice, to be *the primary Guide*, and therefore ought always to have our *principal Attention*; ever esteeming ourselves in Duty bound, *in the first Place, to look unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our Faith.* As “the Life is more than Meat, “and the Body than Raiment,” so is the immediate Influence of the Spirit of Christ more than the Scriptures, or than any Man’s, or Peoples private or partial Interpretation of them, from whence have arisen all the Differences that subsist about them, and which must ever remain to be the Case, till the *Holy Spirit itself* is applied and attended to, as *the right Interpreter, and supreme Standard* of Faith and Practice. This is *the original essential primary Guide*, and *that Revelation* which comes immediately from the Spirit of God into a Man’s Heart, is certainly *the primary One*, and that which he receives through instrumental Means, is as certainly but a *secondary One*.

Heb. xii.

2.
Luke xii.

23.

4. S. N. pretends, P. 56, “It is somewhat remarkable, that Mr. *Phipps* should refer us more than one Hundred Years back, to
“ prove

“ prove to us, there had been a Spirit of Prophecy among them.” Why should this be so remarkable, when he demanded what Grounds *Barclay* had to assert such had appeared among them? Would any Person rationally expect I should bring modern Instances to prove an Assertion made before they existed? Had I introduced any that arose after the Date of the Apology, he might properly have said they were impertinently alleged.

5. Page 64, he cites this Passage from my Observations, “ *Barclay’s* Doctrine is, that the Holy Spirit communicates not a natural Faculty, but itself to the faithful Soul, and becomes to it a new Principle wherein, or as an Organ whereby, it is capacitated rightly to understand religious Truth.” My Inadvertence in leaving an Expression so short of my real Intention, perhaps may have led my Opponent to misunderstand my Meaning. I must therefore request his Leave to explain my own Words; which should have been, “ The Holy Spirit communicates not a natural Faculty, but *somewhat* from itself, to the faithful Soul, which becomes to it,” &c. By *this* he might have gathered, that I intended not a Communication of its *Essence*, but its *Influence*; like as the Sun in the Firmament doth not shed its *Body*, but its *Radiance* upon the Earth; by the unvailing Light, and animating Warmth of which, the Faculties of Men receive a clearer and stronger Perception, both of that glorious Luminary itself, and also of what it reveals and discovers, than it is possible for them to do without its Assistance, by all other Means whatsoever. As to the

Word

Word *Organ* here, *S. N.* knows it is only a Metaphor, a short Simile in one Word, often used in Discourse, not as Argument, but for Illustration; and as no Simile runs on all Four, it is not reasonable to expect it in this. I meant to be understood by the Words, *as an Organ*, its operating *to like Purpose* as a corporeal Organ, or a Means of conveying Intelligence from the Divine Essence to the Soul of Man; as an Eye doth from the Object to the Understanding. I hope this Explanation will sufficiently obviate all the Inferences and Reflections occasioned by my Inadvertence.

6. Page 69 and 70, *S. N.* infers, that the *Quakers* Notion of Revelation seems to imply, *that it must be a Revelation of something not understood, or a Communication of something to the Mind, of which the Soul has no Conception; and that it is a manifest Contradiction,—no Revelation at all, &c.*

Barclay distinguishes Revelation into *objective* and *subjective*, and sometimes he speaks of the one, and sometimes of the other. In order to shew the Propriety of this Distinction, let me observe, that the Soul of Man hath not only a Faculty of Cogitation, by which it ordinarily thinks, unites, divides, compares, or forms Ideas, but also a *latent Power* of internal Sensation, or of perceiving Spiritual Objects by an inward and spiritual Sense, when presented through a proper Medium; which, till the Beams of Divine Light shine upon it, it must be as totally unacquainted with, as the Child in its Mother's Womb is with its Faculties of Sight and Hearing. For, though in that Situation, it may be completely formed,
and

and possess every Organ proper to corporeal Sensation, yet it is not empowered *to exercise them*, or really *to know* it hath them, till it be brought forth into the Medium necessary to the Use of them, composed of the Light and Air of this World. Then it first finds the peculiar Sense, and Exercise of those natural Powers which, before its Birth, it could not have the least Understanding or proper Use of. In like Manner, the natural Man must be delivered out of his natural Darkness, into the luminous and quickening Influence of that Divine Word, or Spirit, which is most emphatically styled *the true Light and Life of Men*. Thus born of the Spirit, into this proper Medium of Divine Knowledge, the Soul is made acquainted with that spiritual Sense it could neither discover, nor believe pertained to it, whilst in its natural State. This is no *new natural Faculty* added, but its own mental Power newly opened, and brought into its due Place and Use.

Words are inadequate to the Expression of this internal Sense felt in the Soul under Divine Influence. It cannot be ideally conveyed to the Understanding of the Unexperienced; for it is not *an Image*, but *a Sensation*, impossible to be conceived but by its own Impression. So true is that of the Apostle, “ Eye hath not
 1 Cor. ii. 9, 10. “ seen, nor Ear heard, neither have entered
 “ into the Heart of Man, the Things which
 “ God hath prepared for them that love him;
 “ but God hath revealed them unto us by his
 “ Spirit.” It was upon this Consideration that I said, Divine Light is the Subject of inward Sensation, “ and is not to be commu-
 “ nicated

“ nicated from one to another by Reasoning, “ over verbal Description.” For, should any Person give the most clear and lively Description possible of the Light of the Sun, to a Man blind from his Birth, it would only be communicating an *ideal Notion* of the Light, but not *the Light itself*. It might be called a subjective Revelation concerning the Light to him, but not an objective one of the Light itself. This no Man can have but by his own immediate Sensation.

Divine Revelation is a Disclosure of something to the rational Mind by the Holy Ghost, not in the Mind’s own Power to discover. This the Holy Spirit doth, either by unvailing of itself by its Influence in some Degree to the Soul, and giving it an internal Sense of its Presence; or by favouring it with the Vision of other Objects, real or representative, through the Communication of Divine Light and Power; or by giving the Soul a clear Sense of its own State and Condition. All this being a *Discovery of Objects*, is called *objective Revelation*.

Subjective Revelation is a Disclosure of *Subjects*, or Things relative, through the Inspiration of the Holy Spirit; by which the Mind is opened into the Knowledge of the Divine Will concerning Persons or Things, led into the true Sense of Scriptures, or into a deeper Understanding of Doctrines than it could ever reach without Divine Illumination. Of this Kind was the original Revelation of the Scriptures to those who penned them.

All this, both objective and subjective, is truly internal immediate Revelation. What

is now modifyly treated as the only Revelation still existing, and to exist, is rather the Fruit of Revelation than the Thing itself, a scriptural Record of Things revealed; for they certainly were so to those to whom they were immediately disclosed; but the different Senses put upon the many disputed Parts of them, for many Generations past, demonstrate those Parts are not truly a Revelation to those who mistake them; nor can they ever become such to them, till they know the Holy Author to be their Interpreter. For, "No Prophecy of Scripture is of any *private Interpretation*." "For the Prophecy came not in old Time," or rather, at any Time, "by the Will of Man," but Holy Men of God spake as they were "moved by the Holy Ghost."

1 Pet. i.
20, 21.

P. 75 and 76, S. N. argues, that the immediate internal Revelation of the Holy Ghost *is not* in all *sufficient to save*, because *Barclay* allows, that some who have once had it, may be, and have been damned; to which I answer, if all were saved, it would be a certain Proof that God is able to save all, but are we therefore warranted to deny or dispute *the Ability* of Almighty Power to save all, because all are not saved? A flowing Spring is certainly *sufficient* to quench my Thirst, if I drink *sufficiently* of it; but if I refuse, the *Insufficiency* is not in the Spring, but entirely owing to my Refusal. But *Balaam* is adduced as an Instance *quite in Point*; because he had internal Revelation, yet taught *Balak* to seduce the *Israelites* to sin. That he sometimes had internal Revelation, is true, and whilst he adhered thereunto, it preserved him from teaching Seduction.

Seduction. It was when he departed from it, or suffered himself to be so far overcome with a *Love to the Wages of Unrighteousness*, that the Holy Spirit departed from him, as an Illuminator and Preserver, that he joined *Balak* in his evil Purposes. This has been the Case of all Apostates, the Grace of God is *all-sufficient*, but they disobey, divide from, and thereby prevent it from operating *sufficiently* to their Salvation.

2 Pet. ii.
15, and
Jude 11.



C H A P. XV.

1. S. N.'s *Inconsistency with our Saviour's Expression*, Mat. xvi. 2. *The Possibility and Necessity of attaining a spiritual Sense of the Spirit of God, preached by Paul to the Pagans.* 3. *A false Inference from my Words obviated.* 4. *The Pagans not void of God's saving Grace, nor led by it into Polytheism, &c. The rude Absurdity of charging us with Paganism.* 5. *Impious Idolaters, &c. not in Christ; but he appears in them as a swift Witness. To whom he communicates saving Knowledge. A Piece of manifest Abuse repelled.* 6. *The Gospel comes not in Word only, but in Power, and Christ not only came outwardly, but also appears inwardly, and by the powerful Operation of his Spirit effects all our Works in us. He is the real Efficient of all Good in Man.* 7. *The Gospel sensibly preached in every Man. The Office of the Spirit of Truth.* 8. *The Light not unintelligible, though undefinable*
as

as to its intimate and peculiar Essence by the Wit of Man, to which natural Things are equally so. 9. My Belief respecting S. N.'s Note. 10. His Mis-information and Impertinence concerning our Terms of Admission. 11. A Day, or Time of Visitation to Man demonstrated. 12. My Intention in styling the Relief he expresses a notional one. 13. What Deism is. The Quakers not Deists, nor such Enthusiasts as their Opponent would render them.

1. PAGE 104. " We pass over his new
 " Discovery, that the Rock on which
 " Jesus will build his Church, is the immedi-
 " ate Revelation of Christ by the Father." What he calls *my new Discovery*, is our Saviour's old Discovery, as ancient as the New Testament; and what he styles *passing over it*, is stopping to contradict it. The Answer of Christ to *Peter* is, " Blessed art thou *Simon Bar-jona*, for *Flesh and Blood* hath not revealed it
 " unto thee, but my Father, which is in Hea-
 " ven." In Opposition to this, S. N. saith, " It
 " is at least highly probable, the Apostle learnt
 " the Truth he confessed from our Lord's Con-
 " versation and Instruction, or from the *Baptist's*
 " Testimony, however the Spirit of the Father
 " influenced him in receiving it." I take it, the Truth *Peter* confessed was not the mere Truth of a Proposition, but a Sense of the Reality of Jesus being the Christ. This, our Lord saith, *the Father revealed to Peter*; but S. N. saith it is at least highly probable he did not, but that either Christ himself or the *Baptist* did it, and intimates that the Father
 only

only aided towards the Apostle's better receiving their Report. I do not see, why this Truth is not as likely to have been spiritually revealed to *Peter* by the Father, as it was to *Paul*, who declares, that by *Revelation the Mystery of Christ was made known to him*, and that it was likewise revealed to his *Holy Apostles and Prophets by the Spirit*. Eph. iii. 3, 4, 5.

2. " Neither shall we dwell upon his Ranking, P. 41. *the feeling after God, and finding him*, mentioned by *Paul* to the *Athenians*, *Acts* xvii. 27, as an equal Proof of his Point, with the Prophets being moved by the Holy Ghost. 2. *Pet. i. 21.*" The Point I brought this Scripture in Proof of is, that a *spiritual internal Sense of God is not impossible to be known*. I therefore first observed, that *Paul* told the *Athenian Pagans*, " God made of one Blood all Nations of Men, not only to live upon the Face of the Earth, but that *they* should seek the Lord, if haply *they might feel after him and find him.*" Hence I inferred, " he then must certainly be to be *found* and *felt* by Man; and as he is a Spirit, it must be after a spiritual Manner. We cannot consistently suppose the Apostle was bantering the *Athenians* here, by putting them upon *feeling after and finding* what was *not to be felt nor found by them.*" To this Argument my Antagonist answers not, but recurs to Evasion, and charges me with invidious Reflections and designing Perversions, for no better End than I can see, but to cover his Imbecility.

3. P. 106, he cites me as follows, Observations, P. 44, " The Confidence of a true Christian is not in what he hears, or reads, " but

“ but in what he *feels* of the Holy Spirit.” Hereupon he says, “ Now this sets aside the “ *real Use and Importance* of a written Revelation, to all Intents and Purposes, for its “ *Contents* cannot now be known but by either “ Reading or Hearing.”

2 Cor. v.
5, 6.

The *real Use* of the Scriptures is to afford Instruction and Comfort, and their *chief Importance* is to recommend to the Spirit of Christ from whence they came, that his People may be enabled rightly to *put their Trust in him*. The Apostle declares, God had given them *the Earnest of the Spirit, therefore they were always confident*. Was not *their Confidence* then grounded in *the Earnest of the Spirit* given them of God? And, is a trust in this Spirit, and a Belief of the Contents of Scripture, incompatible with each other? Or, is a Christian to have no Confidence in the Spirit and Power of the Saviour himself, but all in *his own Notions* of what he reads in Scripture, true or false; and will his own Efforts according to these Notions save him? Cannot he follow those scriptural Exhortations and Doctrines which plainly teach us to pray for the Spirit, to be led by the Spirit, to live and walk in the Spirit, without *setting the Scriptures aside, and treating them with Contempt*? Those who have experienced a living Sense of the Spirit, instead of dividing from the Scriptures, and depreciating their Service, are by the Divine Influence, more closely united to them, read them with a better Understanding, and more to their Comfort and Advantage than ever, are altogether as fervently concerned to press the frequent Perusal of them, as any of those

those who so unjustly accuse them, and who are so inexperienced in the Truth as it is in Jesus, as to place their whole Confidence in the Notions and Opinions they gather from reading the Scriptures, and remain Strangers to the necessary Knowledge of *Christ within, the Hope of Glory.*

4. P. 109. S. N. thus entitles his 7th Article, "The religious Opinions and Practices of *Mr. Phipps's Brethren*, whom he has selected from among *the Heathens*, recapitulated, that he may see what their supposed Divine Inspiration taught them."

The Instances I adduced from the *Pagans*, were to shew, that it was evident from some of their own Expressions, they had an internal Sense of that *Grace of God* which the Apostle saith, *brings Salvation, and hath appeared to all Men.* The Citations I made, appear to me Proofs of it. Our Opponent appearing prepossessed with an Opinion, that eternal Salvation is confined to the *Knowledge* of the History and Doctrines of our Saviour, is necessarily led to think, that all who are not providentially furnished with this, are intentionally left under an Impossibility of entering the Kingdom of Heaven; and thence concludes, that the Generality of the *Pagan* World must be void of any Share of the saving Grace of God; and that we must be wrong in supposing otherwise concerning them. Possessed of these Notions, he seems to infer, that the same Principle which taught them, they had at Times a Manifestation of something of a Divine Nature within them, also led them into their Polytheism, Idolatry, false Theology, and

Tit. ii. 11.

and Immoralities. But I apprehend, this is as far from being true of the *Pagans*, as it is of those Patriarchs, *Israelites*, and Christians, who have defaulted or degenerated. For I can no more believe, that Principle which sometimes gave *Plato* a Sense that “ the Light and “ Spirit of God raiseth up the Soul into a sensible Communion with him,” led him also to teach a Plurality of Deities, than I believe the Spirit which led *Noah* to preach Righteousness, led him also to over-charge and disguise himself with Wine ; or that the Spirit which at Seasons inspired *Aaron*, led him also to make a Golden Calf, for the *Israelites* to worship, or at all concurred with him in it. Nor do I think it reasonable to conclude, that because *Aaron* assisted in an idolatrous Practice, and offended the Spirit of God in other Respects, as also *Miriam*, *David*, *Solomon*, and many other inspired Persons did, that he *never had* a Sense of Divine Influence.

But it seems, both myself, and the People I am religiously connected with, are *Brother-Pagans*, because we hold one like Opinion with some of the best and most intelligent Heathens. Is it either just or charitable, to suppose those Heathens held no sound or sensible Truths ? If they did hold any such, how can any sound or sensible Mind do otherwise, than to acknowledge the same Truths ? And, if such a One detest their Polytheism, Idolatry, and Immorality, as truly as *S. N.* himself can do, is he justly to be stigmatized with the reproachful Title of *Brother-Pagan* ? What

1 Cor. xii. 7. is it that constitutes *Paganism* ? Is it a Belief, that “ the Manifestation of the Spirit is given
“ to

“ to every Man to profit withal?” Or, to ^{Acts x. 34,} perceive of a Truth, “ that God is no Respecter ^{35.} of Persons, but in every Nation, he that feareth him, and worketh Righteousness, is accepted with him?” Then both *Paul* and *Peter* were *Brother-Pagans* too. If we hold the same Doctrine with the *Pagans* where their Tenets are agreeable to Truth, is it equitably to be inferred, that we are one with them where they are not? Should I return my Antagonist his Compliment, by producing Points, wherein he accords with *Papists*, *Deists*, *Enthusiasts*, *Antinomians*, and *Pagans*, and charge their Errors and Extravagancies upon him, would he not tell me, it is treating him with *haughty Contempt and virulent Invec-tive*, as he doth without any such Reason? Let him look to the Beam in his own Eye.

The Sentences I quoted from a few *Pagan* Writers demonstrate what I adduced them for; that they were sensible of a Divine Principle in their Consciences, and knew somewhat of its Operation. Their abiding still in some Part of the Polytheism, &c. they had been educated in, and the Customs they had been taught to hold as sacred and inviolable, only indicate, they had not come so fully under the Guidance of this Principle, as to be led into all Truth by it; but not that they were void of all Sense of it.

P. 119, 120, S. N. asserts, when *Paul* was at *Athens*, he did not direct them to an immediate Revelation—nor appeal to a Divine saving Principle, or Spirit in them. But elsewhere says, Eph. ii. 12. they were without God; 1 Cor. i. 21. and that they knew not God.

The Text doth not peremptorily say, *they knew not God*, but that *they knew him not by their own Wisdom*; and the same Apostle saith,

Rom. i.
20, 21, 22.

“ They are without Excuse; because that
“ *when they knew God*, they glorified him not
“ as God, neither were thankful, but became
“ vain in their Imaginations, and *their foolish*
“ *Heart was darkened*. Professing themselves
“ Wise, they became Fools.” This shews,

Acts xvii.
27.

they had some Time a Knowledge of him, but through Inattention and Disobedience lost that Knowledge; as is the Case with too many professing Christians as well as they. And when the Apostle was among the *Athenians*, he acquainted them, that *God made all Nations of Men, that they might seek after him and find him*; intimating, for their Encouragement so to do, that *he was not far from every one of them*. If they might seek after and find him, it must be by *the immediate Revelation* of his Spirit to their Spirits; which when *found and felt*, would, as adhered to in Obedience, become *a Divine and saving Principle in them*. As to that of *Eph. ii. 12*, it does not appear to relate to the Gentile-World of all Ages and Qualities, but to the carnal State of those Gentile Believers the Apostle was then writing to, before their Conversion to Christianity, as the preceding Verse evidences. Respecting *1 Cor. i. 21*, it is particularly levelled against *all* who depend upon their carnal Wisdom, their natural or acquired Parts, for the Knowledge of God. For, the Words of the Apostle are, *The World by Wisdom knew not God*; which is equally true of carnal *Jews* and Christians, as of carnal Heathens. Both these

these Texts therefore are impertinently alleged.

5. In the following Paragraph, S. N. pretends, that *I may call Idolators, Abettors of Suicide, Countenancers of shocking Impieties and Immoralities, Brethren in Christ, and treat them as savingly influenced by the Spirit of the true God.*

I deny all such to be either Brethren, or any Thing else, *in Christ*, or *savingly influenced* by the Spirit of God. What I believe concerning them is, that they all have at Times felt the reproving Witness of God in their Consciences, which gives them *a convicting Knowledge* of him; and if they continue *to rebel* Job xxiv.
against this Light, they become so darkened ^{13.}

towards it, that “*they know not the Ways thereof*, nor abide in the Paths thereof.”—
Not liking to retain God in their Knowledge, Rom. i. 28
 after long Forbearance, *he gives them over to a reprobate Mind*. Our Principle teaches, that *the Grace of God that bringeth Salvation, hath appeared to all Men*, first as a Convictor, or Convincer of Sin. Thus it stands at the Door of Man's Heart, and knocks for Entrance, and if the Heart opens to it, and abides *in the Ability it furnishes*, sincerely desiring, and seeking to obey its Motions, it will, by due Degrees, increase *that Ability* therein, till it prove itself *the Power of God unto Salvation* to it. Then, and not till then, the Mind is sensible of *the saving Knowledge* of this Divine Principle; yet, before this, whilst the Soul knew nothing more of it than merely its Convictions, it could not be said to be totally ignorant of an internal immediate Sense of that Grace which *is saving*, both *in*

its Nature and Intention, though it was not indued with *the saving Knowledge of it*.

I appeal to that Sense of the Grace of God, in every conscientious Breast, whether those uncandid Reflections, and the Insinuation of my Opposer, that *I may exult in the religious Spirit of impure immoral Idolators*, be doing Justice to the scriptural Doctrine I declare, and becoming his Pretensions as a Minister of the Gospel?

6. As to what follows under his next Head, we have all along uniformly acknowledged, as fully as he can do, the Gospel *came in Word as well as in Power*; but *not in Word only, but also in Power*, even in *the Power of the Holy Ghost*. And, we are sensible, that this Divine Power, from whence the Words sprang, is the very *Essence* of the Gospel, and the Words but the outward Expression, or exterior Declaration by which it is preached and recommended. To this essential internal Grace, Power and Spirit of God, the Apostles called, and pressed their Hearers, as well as to the Belief of the outward Advent and Process of the Messiah then past. They taught them, that “ Christ was *once* offered to bear the Sins of many, and unto them that look for him, “ *shall he appear the second Time, without Sin unto Salvation.*” This *second Appearance of Christ*, we do not understand to intend his coming to Judgment at the great Day of general Decision; for *then* he will come both to determine the final State of the Righteous and Unrighteous; not to Salvation only, but to Condemnation also. But this *second Appearance* is in order to *the Salvation* of those *who look for him* to that End. Accordingly, the
Apostle

1 Thes. i.

5.

Heb. ix.

28.

Apostle thus prays for the Believers, "The ² Thes. iii.
 " Lord *direct your Hearts* into the Love of God, ⁵
 " and into the patient Waiting for Christ ;"
 and he describes the *Corinthians* as " *waiting*. ¹ Cor. i. 7.
 " *for the Coming,*" or renewed Appearance
 " of our Lord *Jesus Christ.*"

Notwithstanding our Saviour empowers and employs his Messengers to declare his Will, and to call People to the Work of Repentance and Regeneration; yet he constitutes them not as *Deputies* to do the Work for him. It is not the Words they deliver, nor any Application Man, by his own Powers, can make of them, which can perform this great Business. " Lord," saith the Prophet, " thou wilt ^{Isa. xxvi.}
 " ordain Peace for us; for *thou also hast wrought* ^{12.}
 " *all our Works in us.*" The Spirit of the High and Holy One is the true Efficient of all the real Good that is done, all the Virtue that is wrought, either in the Church in general, or any of its Members. It is the Spirit that (a) *giveth Understanding*, and *unveils the Knowledge of the Things of God*; (b) *quickeneth and maketh alive*, (c) *mortifies*, (d) *circumcises*,
 (e) *baptizes*,

a " I said, Days should speak, and Multitude of Years should teach Wisdom. But there is a Spirit in Man, and the Inspiration of the Almighty giveth them Understanding." *Job xxxii. 7, 8.* " Eye hath not seen, nor Ear heard, neither have entered into the Heart of Man, the Things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit; for the Spirit searcheth all Things, yea, the deep Things of God. For what Man knoweth the Things of a Man, save the Spirit of Man which is in him? Even so, the Things of God knoweth no Man, but the Spirit of God." *1* Cor. ii. 9, 10, 11.

b " It is the Spirit that quickeneth, the Flesh profiteth nothing." *John vi. 63.* " The Letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth Life." ² *Cor. iii. 6.* " If the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the Dead, dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the Dead, shall also quicken your mortal Bodies, by his Spirit that dwelleth in you." *Rom. viii. 11.*

c " If ye live after the Flesh, ye shall die; but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the Deeds of the Body, ye shall live." *Rom. viii. 13.*

d—" Circumcision is that of the Heart in the Spirit, and not in the Letter." *Rom. ii. 29.*

(*e*) baptizes, (*f*) sanctifies, (*g*) regenerates, (*h*) sets free, (*i*) strengthens, and enables to Obedience. In the Spirit is (*k*) the true Light, (*l*) the Life, (*m*) the Love, (*n*) the Waiting, (*o*) the Walking, (*p*) the Fellowship, and Communion of the Gospel. In the Spirit (*q*) is true Prayer made, (*r*) Access to the Throne of Grace opened, and acceptable Worship performed. The Spirit is (*s*) the Covering of God's People, (*t*) their Guide, (*u*) their Leader, (*w*) their Comforter, (*x*)

e—"By one Spirit we are all baptized into one Body." 1 Cor. xii. 13.

f—"But ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the Name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God." 1 Cor. vi. 11.

g—"Except a Man be born of Water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God. That which is born of the Flesh is Flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit, is Spirit." John iii. 5, 6.

h—"The Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus, hath made me free from the Law of Sin and Death." Rom. viii. 2.

i—"That he would grant you, according to the Riches of his Glory, to be strengthened with Might, by his Spirit, in the inner Man." Eph. iii. 16.

k—"In him was Life, and the Life was the Light of Men."—"That was the true Light which lighteth every Man that cometh into the World." John i. 4. 9. "God, who commanded the Light to shine out of Darkness, hath shined in our Hearts, to give the Light of the Knowledge of the Glory of God, in the Face of Jesus Christ" 2 Cor. iv. 6.

l—"The Spirit giveth Life." 2 Cor. iii. 6.

m—"Who also declared unto us your Love in the Spirit." Col. i. 8.

n—"We through the Spirit wait for the Hope of Righteousness, by Faith." Gal. v. 5.

o—"If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." Gal. v. 25.

p—"If any Fellowship of the Spirit." Phil. ii. 1.—"Have been all made to drink into one Spirit." 1 Cor. xii. 13.

q—"The Spirit also helpeth our Infirmities, for we know not what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit itself maketh Intercession for us," &c. Rom. viii. 26. "Praying always with all Prayer and Supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all Perseverance." Eph. vi. 18.—"Praying in the Holy Ghost." Jude 20.

r—"Through him we both have an Access by one Spirit unto the Father." Eph. ii. 18.

s—"Wo to the rebellious Children—that cover with a Covering, but not of my Spirit." Isa. xxx. 1.

t—"When he the Spirit of Truth is come, he will guide you into all Truth." John xvi. 3.

u—"If ye be led by the Spirit ye are not under the Law." Gal. v. 18. "As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the Sons of God." Rom. viii. 14.

w—"I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter that he may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of Truth." John xiv. 16, 17.

(x) *their Seal, the infelt Earnest of an everlasting Inheritance to them; and in some, the all-effective Power and Virtue of the Gospel-ministration; all which the Scriptures here-under cited undeniably evidence.*

7. In all these Respects the Holy Spirit operated in common amongst the primitive Believers. For the Continuation of the same spiritual Operations, it is that we plead, and not that of miraculous Gifts; which were always extraordinary, and afforded but to few in Comparison of the whole Number of the Primitives. Yet our Examiner all along chooses, that we shall mean what he pleases, and what may best answer the End he so artificially labours to accomplish. Upon this Ground, P. 122, &c. he proceeds against us, as though we disputed the Convincement of the Christian Converts through the Preaching of the Apostles; which we are as far from denying as any People upon Earth. What I opposed him in was, the Inference he appeared to make, *that because it pleased God to teach them sometimes instrumentally, he never taught them immediately at any Time; or, that none were ever converted or taught of God but through external Means; which the very Convictions of God's Grace in every Man's Conscience disprove.*

He allows, *all Men have the Spirit*, but denies they have any more Sense of it, than a Vegetable of the Sap that nourishes it. But his own repeated Confession, that when he does Right Conscience approves, and when he
does

x—"God, who hath also Sealed us, and given the Earnest of the Spirit in our Hearts." 2 Cor. i. 22.—"In whom also, after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of Promise." Eph. i. 13.—"Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed, unto the Day of Redemption." Ibid. iv. 30.

does Wrong it condemns him, shews the Contrary. This is generally called Conscience, because it is something of God appearing in the Mind, and giving it a conscious Sense of Right and Wrong respecting its own Acts. No Man could know it makes these just Distinctions without a Sense of them. What is inward Conviction for Evil, but a Sense of Guilt? And, what is the genuine Effect of Guilt, but Remorse? What does Remorse lead to, but Repentance? And what is Repentance, but the Doctrine of the Gospel? Every rational Creature under Heaven, therefore, having this Sensation, hath the Gospel preached in him or her by this righteous Principle, agreeable to *Col. i. 3.*

John xv.
and xvi.

Our Lord shewed his Disciples, that the Spirit of Truth, the Comforter, should *not only bring to their Remembrance what he had told them, shew them Things to come, and lead them into all Truth;* but it should likewise, *reprove the World of Sin, of Righteousness, and of Judgment.* Whether this Divine Visitor appears to the Mind of Man, in Words, or without Words, by the Sensations of Compunction and Remorse; whether in the Sharpness of Reproof, or the healing Touches of Consolation; whether it manifests itself as Light, or sheds its Life and Love into the Heart; whether it darts upon it as Lightning, or settles it in a Holy Serenity; fills it with Faith, or inflames it with Zeal; in all these Ways, seeing it proceeds not by Messenger, but by its own immediate Communication to the rational Soul of Man, it is properly styled *internal immediate Revelation.*

This Divine Principle is a living Source of Truth and Virtue in Man, without which
Laws

Laws and Precepts would little avail, and when through Faithfulness thereunto, it is enlarged and advanced over all in the Soul, it is found to be a sure Foundation, which neither the Wisdom of the Wise, the Reasonings of the Confident, the Jugglings of the Crafty, the Derision of the Reviler, the Rage of the Persecutor, nor even the Gates of Hell can prevail against.

8. S. N.'s repeated Allegations that this Principle is inexplicable and unintelligible, and calling for particular Definitions of its peculiar Essence, with his insulting Conclusions thereupon, amount to nothing more than this Argument. *If you are really sensible of this Principle, you can clearly define what it is; but you are not able thus to define it; therefore you have no Sense of it.* To shew this Reasoning proves nothing, take the following Parallel. *If you are really sensible there is a magnetic Power in the Loadstone, you can clearly define what that Power is; but you are not able clearly to define it; therefore you have no Sense of it.* What experienced Navigator would prefer this Reasoning to the Facts he has had ocular Demonstration of; to the certain Experience he has daily profited by? That a Man must be able to define to others, the peculiar Essence of whatever he sensibly knows to be true, is beyond the Power of Logic to prove. It is enough for us to know, that it is God that worketh in us, and to yield Obedience to his Operations; the Truth of which is not at all affected by a Want of nice and essential Definitions of that which effects them. We plainly behold the astonishing natural Virtue
of

of the Magnet, both respecting its Attraction and polar Adhesion. It is an undeniable effective Power, yet essentially undefinable by the Wit of Man. All the Attempts that have been, or can be made to discover it, whether just or erroneous, it cannot in the least affect the Reality and Verity of it; because a Cloud of Witnesses have found it to be true by a sensible Evidence. So it is with the Work and Power of the Holy Spirit. All the painful Researches of the most ingenious and penetrating of Mankind, demonstrate that the intimate Essences, and intrinsic Differences of natural Things, are out of the Reach of human Discovery; much more so are those of a spiritual Nature.

Acts xviii.
25.

9. In his Note, P. 123, he suspects, I can't conscientiously believe, what I cannot but conscientiously believe; which is, that to be *fervent in Spirit*, relates to the Fervency of a Man's own Spirit; and that to be *fervent in the Spirit*, as expressed of *Apollos*, intends a Fervency inspired by the Spirit. It is true, our Translators have rendered the like Phrase, *Rom. xii. 11. fervent in Spirit*; but probably, what led them to that might be the contrasting Expression preceding it, *not slothful in Business*; yet I think unwarrantably.

Ibid. S. N. saith, " Mr. *Phipps* also is for " making a Syllogism for me, that he might " the more easily refute it." The Syllogism I made for him is founded upon his own Assertions; that " God had many People at *Corinth*, " but he did not choose to teach them the Gospel by immediate Revelation. No," &c. " His new substituted Syllogism is founded upon

upon a different Position, to which I do not object; that is, "they were not taught the Gospel by internal immediate Revelation *alone.*" By his Addition of the Word *alone*, he alters from his former Doctrine to ours. What the Apologist asserts, is sufficiently proved; for I have shewn, Words, without Divine Influence, are not to be depended on for the true Sense of ambiguous Expressions, because they are so liable to be differently understood by different Persons.

10. What S. N. gives out as our Terms of Admission, P. 128, are not our Terms of Admission. We receive our Members upon a better Foundation than he appears to be acquainted with. Our Terms of Admission, are, a free and unforced conscientious Acquiescence upon Principle, with the essential Doctrines of Truth and real Christianity, and the Rules of the Society founded thereon, and not upon mere external Appearances. The Divine Principle itself is our Bond of Union, and the Holy Scriptures are our Articles. Christ once in the Flesh, and always in Spirit, are Fundamentals with us. We require no Subscription to Articles of human Invention.

As to Differences in Opinion amongst us; whilst Professors of the same Faith differ in Years and Experience, in Capacity and Opportunity, in Education and Associates, in Faithfulness or Unfaithfulness to their Principles, there must be different Opinions and Practices. When the Believers in the primitive Age of Christianity grew numerous, it was the Case amongst them, and in all Societies ever since.

What

What we assert is, that the One Holy Spirit leads all that faithfully follow it into Sameness of Doctrine, and Unity of Love; and that all who profess to be Followers of Christ, *ought* to be led by his Spirit; but that *all*, either of our own Society, or any other, *are so led*, we are far from asserting or believing.

The Quotation made from *Barclay*, Page 131, amounts to no more than this; *that the Spirit of God is sufficient of itself, without any Thing else; but nothing else is sufficient without that.* To infer from this undeniable Truth, that we mean every Thing but the Holy Spirit is *useless* to Man's Salvation, whether the Spirit please to use them or not, is a mere Perverſion. Whatever the Spirit is pleased to use, it renders useful; what it uses not in the Work of Salvation, cannot be useful towards it; for *Salvation is of God, and there is no Saviour besides him.* To parallel this with such an Huddle of Falsehoods, as my Opposer cites from the deistical Author of *Christianity not founded on Argument*, is only a Repetition of one of his customary Abuses.

II. P. 135. He thinks "*Barclay's Time*" or Day of Visitation, which does not always "*continue through a Man's Life,*" a dangerous and melancholy Opinion. "*For,*" says he, "*were a Man properly affected with his miserable Condition by Sin, and once imagined his Day of Grace to be over, neither the Light within him, nor the Gospel without him, can give him any Relief.*" For this Reason Men ought carefully to embrace the Day of their Visitation, and follow the Advice of our Saviour, who saith, "*While*"
" ye

Pf. xxxvii.
39.
Iſa. lxiii.
11.

John xii.
36.

“ ye have the Light, believe in the Light, that ye may be the Children of Light.” This is the only Way to escape the dreadful Consequences of continuing in Rebellion against it. And, is it not a Comfort to all Men, that they are allowed this Opportunity? If he think so unfavourably of this Doctrine, what does he teach others to think of his favourite Doctrine of *Preterition*, which allows of *no Condition*, or *Time of Visitation at all*, nor even *one single Chance* for Salvation, to the Majority of Mankind?

That there is such a Time and Opportunity as *Barclay* inculcates, and that it may be lost to Apostatizers past Redemption, is evident from that awful Passage, *Heb. vi. 4, 5, 6.* “ It is impossible for those *who were once enlightened*, and have *tasted* of the Heavenly Gift, and were made *Partakers* of the Holy Ghost, and have *tasted* of the good Word of God, and *the Powers* of the World to come; if *they shall fall away, to renew them again unto Repentance*; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open Shame.”

This Passage evinces, 1st. that Persons may become sensible Partakers of the Holy Ghost, and taste of that Divine Power which is the eternal Life of the Blessed in the World to come. 2d. That they may apostatize from this Condition to such a Degree, that Repentance, and consequently Salvation, shall become impossible to them. 3d. That they bring this upon themselves, because they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open Shame; they reject and rebel
against

Heb. vi. 7.
and 8.

againſt the Invitations of his Spirit in themſelves, till they occaſion it to forſake them, whereby the Divine Witneſs is ſpiritually crucified and ſlain as to its Life in them, and the Chriſtian-name openly reproached through their evil Conduct and Example. This is further illuſtrated by a Simile in the two ſucceeding Verſes. “ For the Earth which
“ drinketh in the Rain that cometh oft upon
“ it, and bringeth forth Herbs meet for them
“ by whom it is dreſſed, receiveth Bleſſing
“ from God. But that which beareth Thorns
“ and Briars, is rejected, and is nigh unto
“ curſing, whoſe End is to be burned.” *The Rain that cometh oft upon the Earth*, denotes that the Divine Viſitation is frequently renewed to the Soul of Man ; and *the Earth which drinketh it up, and bringeth forth Herbs*, the Soul that affectionately receives, and faithfully retains it, ſo as to bring forth the Fruits of the Spirit ; whereby it inherits the Bleſſing of God’s Salvation. By *the Earth which beareth Thorns and Briars*, is pointed out the Soul that ſo repeatedly continues to reſiſt, and backſlide from the Divine Viſitor, as to bring forth, and abide in, wicked Works, which occaſions him to reject and forſake it ; the Conſequence whereof muſt be its final Condemnation and Deſtruction.

This Portion of Scripture thus demonſtrates, both the Certainty of a Day of Divine Viſitation to the Souls of Men, and the Poſſibility of its being diſcontinued, whiſt they remain in the Body.

12. S. N. in his Letter, P. 29, having ſaid,
“ Whether God would pardon my Iniquities,
“ my

“ my Light could give me no Information ;” and afterwards expressing, “ I am relieved by a
 “ Notion, a Report, a Testimony, Sentiments
 “ delivered by Jesus of *Nazareth*, and his
 “ Apostles in the New Testament.” I queried,
 P. 58. “ What does he read there that *parti-*
 “ *cularly* concerns himself more than any other
 “ Person? Where doth the New Testament
 “ declare, that * *No Matter who*, is in a State
 “ of Divine Acceptance and Approbation?”
 Herein I had no Intention to insinuate, that he meant to exclude all others from an equal Share with him, nor will my Words bear such a Construction. But apprehending, upon his *Predestinarian* Principles, that he flattered himself, he was one of *the personally elected*, from something he had read in the New Testament, and willing he should not deceive himself, I inquired where he found himself *particularly* pointed out as one of the Elect. Instead of a pertinent Answer, he cites only the first Part of the Question, and in that leaves out the Word *particularly*; which is unfair in both Respects, and renders all the *religious Indignation* he vents upon it for several Pages, entirely pointless. What I intended was to put him upon Consideration, that if what he read in the New Testament was a *true Relief* to him, his Comfort must arise either from an Evidence that all Men universally have, or that himself in particular hath certainly a Share in *the glad Tidings* of the Gospel; and that, if he did not believe all Men therein comprehended, this comfortable Evidence to himself must spring either from the Holy Spirit bearing Wit-

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* S. Newton's Signature instead of his proper Name.

ness with his Spirit, that he is the Lord's, or from an especial Mention of him in the Scripture; and as I found he denied the internal Evidence of the Spirit, I queried with him, where he found himself *particularly* pointed out in the New Testament, as in a State of Divine Acceptance; and I still think it worth his While to examine *the Grounds of his Belief*, that he may not be deceived by a *mere Notion*.

13. He cites *Barclay's* Definition of Conscience in the Abstract, and then improperly treats it as in the Concrete, to make it suit with the deistical Notions of *Tindal*, and prove the *Quakers* Deists: A Point he as arduously as ineffectually labours. We always understand the natural Conscience, and the Light of God's Spirit appearing in the Conscience, as different Principles. The very Essence of Deism consists in a Denial of Revelation. A Denial of all Divine Revelation is perfect Deism. A Denial of it in Part is partial Deism. The *Quakers* deny no Part of Divine Revelation; therefore are in no Respects to be styled Deists. They believe both in the Inspiration of the Scriptures, and that of the Holy Spirit. Those who disbelieved either the one or the other, are so far deistical. He who believes the Sacred Writings were penned by Men inspired for that Purpose, and yet holds that all immediate Inspiration is now totally withheld, doth, in perusing the Scriptures, rest upon his own *private Interpretations*, or that of his Party, as the true Sense intended by the Holy Ghost, and is at best a Semi-Deist. Such a One has no Right to reproach those with the Name of Deists, who believe the Penmen of Scripture

to have been Inspired as well as he, and also acknowledge the Continuance of Inspiration, which he doth not. To pretend, that the inspired Records must be needless to, and therefore set aside by, those who believe the Continuance of internal Inspiration, is falsely inferred; for, the Scriptures of the Old Testament were useful to, and used by the inspired Apostles; and those who have at Times experienced the Renewals of Inspiration, know that the Scriptures are often thereby brought to their Remembrance, more clearly opened, and rendered more useful and comfortable to them, than it is possible for them to be without it. This is not the vain Imagination of a *private Spirit*, nor that *wild Enthusiasm* so indiscriminately and untruly cast as an Opprobrium, upon all who profess the Necessity of knowing the inspiring Spirit of Truth to lead into all Truth to the End of the World.

C H A P.



C H A P. XVI.

1. S. N.'s pretended Quotation from G. Fox's Great Mystery a false one. G. Fox's true Intention. 2. The essential Gospel, and S. N.'s supposed Cases answered. Barclay cleared of his Charge, and himself shewn to oppose the Sense of the Apostle. 3. Christ the Light and Life of Men before his Incarnation. These Terms not to be confined to his corporeal Appearance upon Earth. 4. Nor to the Scriptures. What their proper Use is. 5 and 6. The Greek Word Erchomenon, John i. ix. more properly applicable to Man, than either to Light or Christ. 7. A material Difference between Light afforded in order to Salvation, and a real embracing of it so as to be saved by it. Christ as truly the Light of the Souls of Men, as the Sun is to their Bodies, whether they keep their Eyes open to it, or shut them against it. 8. Christ as the Divine Word, the creating, upholding, and saving Power of God to Mankind, the Elect, the gracious Administrator of Life and Salvation, through his external Sacrifice, and by the Communication of his Spirit. The true Sense of unlearned Writers, not to be ascertained by the Rules of Grammar, or Criticism. 9. Rom. x. 14, 15, equally concerns Jews and Gentiles. The Improbability of the Primitives preaching throughout the habitable World. 10. Not every individual Man, but every regenerate Person, is the Temple of God. 11. The Kingdom of God

God is within, Luke xvii. S. N.'s Falsification of the original Text, to make it appear otherwise. The true Christian is the Temple of Christ, wherein he manifests himself by his Spirit. 12. What the Kingdom of God is. The Conclusion.

1. **W**HAT S. N. pretends to cite, Page 144, from *G. Fox's* great Mystery, is not there. It is nothing better than a Per-
 version of Expressions of a different Meaning, made formerly by *Thomas Hicks*, from whom he has taken it at second Hand, and who was one of the many unjust and violent Adversaries of the *Quakers* in the last Century; confuted by *George Whitehead*, in the second Part of the *Christian Quaker*, and by *William Penn*, in his *Reason against Railing*, and his *Counterfeit Christian detected*.

What *G. Fox* saith in his great Mystery, P. 68, is, "Christ is in you except ye be Reprobates," saith the Apostle; and again, "God breathed into Man *the Breath of Life*," and he became a living Soul; for *that* which came out from God, was the Cause that Man became alive, a living Soul, and is not *this* of God?—Is not *that* of God *which* came out from God?" This he did not intend of the Soul itself, but of *the inbreathing of Divine Life* in the Soul. Of *this Life* it is that he saith, "It brings the Soul that is faithful to it, up into God, from whence it came, whereby they come to be one Soul;" meaning in *Unity*, not *Identity*. What he means, P. 29 and 91, by the Soul's being *infinite*, is only *immortal*, or of *infinite Duration*, not

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Expansion.

Expansion. These Terms he sometimes used one for another, as is common amongst unlettered Persons. It is evident from his own Words, P. 91, that he did not mean the Soul was a Part of the Divine Essence; for he there speaks of its being in a State of Death whilst in Transgression, which is not possible to the Divine Essence, and afterwards adds, “ Every
 “ Man that cometh into the World, having a
 “ Light from Christ Jesus (the Way out of
 “ the Fall, the second *Adam*) receiving the
 “ Light, they receive Redemption and Sanc-
 “ tification, whereby their Spirits, Bodies,
 “ and Souls are sanctified.” Here he plainly distinguishes between the Soul, and that which it receives of the Divine Nature which Sanctifies it.

G. Fox's Treatise was printed in 1659, and contains cursory Answers to above an Hundred different Opposers, who in a Manner mobbed him from the Press at that contentious Period; and as he had full Employment for his Time otherwise, and had not the Benefit of that Literature which is now common, infamous Advantages then were, and have often since been taken by designing Antagonists, of the Inaccuracy of his Expressions. But I should think it beneath any Person of a liberal Education, and Character, to copy from those Ill-intenders, or to follow them in such a disingenuous Line. Neither the Witticism of *S. N.'s sensible Writer*, nor his own Reflection upon it, has any Foundation in our Doctrine.

2. In answer to his Efforts concerning the Gospel, P. 147, &c. without troubling myself with the unnecessary Pedantry of Etymologies,
 I shall

I shall say, we allow the Word *Gospel*, in an extended Sense, may include both the Mystery and the History, the *inward* and *outward* Process of our Saviour; for *the Gospel comes not in* ^{1 Thes. i.} *Word only, but also in Power, and in the Holy* ^{5.} *Ghost*. We believe, this Power of the Holy Ghost to be the internal essential Part, and the Words the exterior declarative, and occasional Expression of it. We admit the History, metonymically to a Share in the Title, but not to engross it; lest the Power, which is the Life and Reality of it, should be excluded, and People be *deceived* into a Belief, that the Gospel essentially consists of nothing but Words.

The Passages *S. N.* cites, P. 148 and 150, from *1 Cor.* xv. and *Acts* x. prove not that the Gospel is *totally* comprehended in the historical Part *only*. We are far from denying, that *Paul*, *Peter*, or any other true Minister or Messenger of Christ, preached the Gospel, when, by Inspiration, they preached concerning the historical Process of Christ; but we cannot allow, that this comprehends *the Whole* of the Gospel they preached. For we read in their Writings, that the Gospel *is the Power of God unto Salvation*, and that *it shines as a* ^{2 Cor. iv.} *Light in the Heart, to give the Knowledge* ^{6.} *of the Glory of God*. The *Doctrines* of the Gospel are also called the Gospel, and the Preaching of them, is termed preaching the Gospel; but it is evident, neither the *History* nor the *Doctrines*, are the essential Gospel intended in *Gal.* i. For, we find, after the Apostle had said, “ If any Man preach any ^{Gal. i. 9.} other Gospel unto you, than that ye have
“ received,

“ received, let him be accursed,” he shews what he meant by *the Gospel they had received*, in 11, 12, 15, and 16th Verses. “ I certify you Brethren, that *the Gospel* which was preached of me, is not after Man. For *I neither received it of Man, neither was I taught it, but by the Revelation of Jesus Christ.*”—But when it pleased God, who separated me from my Mother’s Womb, and called by his Grace, *to reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the Heathen*, immediately, I conferred not with Flesh and Blood.” The Gospel here intended is plainly, *the immediate Revelation of the Son of God within him*, and neither an historical nor doctrinal Relation of Things without him. It is against the Oppugners of this *internal essential Gospel* which is not *of Man*, nor *by Man*, but *by the Revelation of Jesus Christ within Man*, that the Apostle twice pronounces *Anathema*. S. N. untruly charges us with a Disregard of the Context, though here he manifestly rejects it, and runs to 1 Cor. and Acts for an Explanation, rather than use the *real and true One* of the Apostle himself, in its due and proper Place.

S. N. allows, P. 153, that the Gospel was attended by the Power of the Holy Ghost, but asserts, *it was not that Power*. The Apostle saith, *it is the Power*. Thus not we, but himself contradicts the Apostle. In *Demonstration of this Gospel Spirit and Power* Paul preached, that the Faith of his Hearers might be fixed in this *Power of God*, and not in the private Interpretations of Mens Wisdom. His Fellow-labourers preached under the Influence of

Rom. i.
16.
1 Cor. xii.
4, 5.

of the same Divine Power, which pricked their Hearers *in their Heart*; and so must all ^{Acts ii. 37.} that ever *truly* preach the Gospel. The Apostle declares, he would know *not the Speech of* ^{1 Cor. iv. 19, 20.} *them that are puffed up, but the Power. For the Kingdom of God is not in Word, but in Power.* This everlasting Power is the Spirit of the Gospel, wherein it mainly and most essentially consists; as the Essentiality of the Man doth of the rational Soul; and the Words and Matters preached or written, are as the Body, or present Outside. *2 Tim. iii.* The Apostle describes what Kind of Men those would be who, “having a Form of Godliness, “*would deny the Power*;” and directs, “from “such turn away.”

P. 155, S. N. supposes two Cases, which are briefly these: First, If I and some of my Brethren were confined for Rebellion, without any Prospect but that of Death before us, and a royal Messenger brought a Proclamation to the Gate for our Pardon and Enlargement. Or, Second, if we were actually brought to the Place of Execution, and the King's Son, in his Father's Name, there declared a free and full Pardon to us, on practical Conditions. Upon these Suppositions he queries, whether these Declarations would not be *Gospel*, or *glad Tidings* to us? I answer, Yes, if the real Fulfilment of them certainly ensue; but if not, they would soon prove *sad Tidings*, and depress us the more upon a Disappointment. Will he say, that the Whole is done only by reading the Proclamation? Is not the material Part to follow? Are we delivered by Hearing? Is it not necessary that *we should fulfil the Terms required,*

required, and then be unfettered and unbound, or the Prison Doors set open to us? And is not this the *essential* Part? The *Words* declare the kind Offer and the good Intent, but the *executive Power* sets at Liberty; and which is preferable if considered apart. Which would any Man choose, to hear of Liberty, or to enjoy it? To resolve the Whole of the Gospel into mere Tidings, and to reduce it into bare Report, is to exclude the *powerful Reality which gives Deliverance*, from any Share in the Title; as though the *Report* was the *Saviour*, and the *Notion* the *Salvation*. This is what we cannot admit as an Article in our Creed. We know no Saviour but Christ, nor any Salvation without *his Power*.

S. N. was too sanguine in asserting in his Letter, P. 34, and repeating it in his present Publication, P. 149, that *Barclay's* treating the Gospel in like Manner, was a *Distinction of his own devising*. I shewed him the Contrary, from *William Thorpe*, the Protestant Martyr, *John Smith*, of *Cambridge*, and Dr. *Smith*; and I'll now shew him further, that *Tertullian* wrote to the same Purpose fifteen Hundred Years ago. In his Apology, Cap. xvii. he saith, "surely the Soul was before the Letter, and the Word was before the Book." And in his *Carminum Advers. Marion*. Lib. ii. he saith,

"—non Verba Libri, sed missus in Orbem
 "Ipse Christus Evangelium est, si cernere
 "vultis.

In English thus:

"If you are disposed to understand; not the
 "Words of the Book, but *Christ himself*, who
 is

“ is sent into the World, *is the Gospel.*” We likewise read, 2 Cor. iv. 3, &c. “ If our Gospel be hid, it is hid (*in eos*) in them that are lost; in whom the God of this World hath blinded the Minds of them which believe not, lest the Light of the glorious Gospel of Christ, who is the Image of God, should shine unto them. For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your Servants for Jesus’s Sake. For God who commanded the Light to shine out of Darknefs, hath shined in our Hearts, to give the Light of the Knowledge of the Glory of God in the Face of Jesus Christ.”

Here the Apostle teaches, that the Gospel they preached was Christ, shewing his Face, or manifesting himself as the Image of God in their Hearts; and that it was only hid, or obscured in the Minds of those, who through Unbelief therein, or Unfaithfulness thereto, were become blinded towards it by him who is called *the God of this World*, because he is obeyed by those Eph. ii. 2. who walk according to the Course of this World.

3. P. 162, S. N. acknowledges, that John the Evangelist asserts, the Logos, or Word, was God, the Creator of all Things, the Life, and Light of Men; to which he adds, “ It was the Source of all the true Knowledge of God, and a future State, *that had ever been,* or was then revealed to any of his People, for the Life and Happiness of their Souls.”

All this, understood of the *Eternal Word*, we readily acquiesce in; as it accords with the Nature of Truth, and the Prophecy of the Gospel-covenant. “ I will put my Law in Jer. xxxi. their inward Parts, and write it in their 33, 34. Hearts.”

“Hearts.”—“For they shall all know me from the least of them, to the greatest of them.” This could not intend the Knowledge of Christ incarnate; for that Appearance was too exterior, and of too short Duration. Nor could it mean the Knowledge of the Scriptures; for a Man may know them from Beginning to End, believe them to be true, and frame his Practice according to his Apprehensions of the Sense of them, and *yet not know the Lord*. The *Jews* had the Law, the Prophets, and the Scriptures extant in their Time; yet the Almighty by the Mouth of the same Prophet declares, “My People are foolish, *they have not known me.*” Nor was it possible they should without Divine Assistance; therefore he saith, “*I will give them a Heart to know me.*” And in *Ezekiel*, “A new Heart also will I give you, and a new Spirit will I put within you.”—“*I will put my Spirit within you.*” Thus the *true Knowledge of God* is to be received, by the internal Writing of the *Divine Word* in the Heart, which puts the Law of Light and Life within Man, and thereby *lighteth every Man coming, or that cometh into the World.*

4. To imagine the universal Light and Life of the *immortal Word*, is at all meant of the Scriptures, is absurd. For it appears to have been, at least, two Thousand four Hundred Years after the Creation, before any Part of the Scriptures were written, and the several Pieces that compose them, were occasionally written at divers Times, and by different Penmen, taking up about sixteen Hundred and thirty Years more, from the Publication of the first

Ibid. iv. 22

Jer. xxiv.
7.

Ezek.
xxxvi. 26,
27.

first of them by *Moses*, to the last by *John* the Divine ; considering also, that the abundantly greater Part of Mankind in these latter Ages, since they have appeared in Christendom, have never yet had them, and how many Millions therein, have been wickedly debarred from the Use of them in their own Language, by an interested and designing Priesthood ; it undeniably appears, that a vast Majority of Mankind never had the Benefit of them. And, amongst those who are favoured with them, the Variety, and even Contrariety of Opinions and Practices which have all along subsisted, especially among the high Pretenders to, and Possessors of Literature, all contribute to demonstrate, that though the Sacred Records, opened by the spiritual Key of *David*, are profitable and excellent above all other Writings, yet a more adequate universal Guide than themselves, ever hath been, and now is, absolutely necessary to the Salvation of Mankind.

5. P. 164, *S. N.* understands the Word *Erchomenon* rendered *coming*, or *that cometh*, John i. 9. as referring to the *Light*, rather than to *Man*. But, as *Maldonatus* observes, *Man* being the next Noun, may more properly challenge the Participle *coming* to itself. Thus it is in the *Syriac*, *Arabic*, and *Ethiopic* Versions ; in the *Latin*, by *Luther*, *Erasmus*, *Beza*, *Drusius*, and others ; also in the *French*, *Spanish*, *Italian*, *German*, *Low Dutch*, and *Anglosaxonic* Translations. In the same Sense it was understood by *Nazianzen*, *Chrysostom*, *Lactantius*, &c. Of all which Instances are produced in *William Penn's* *Spirit of Truth* vindicated, published about a Century ago, in Answer to a
learned

learned *Socinian*. But apart from other Authorities, the Context appears sufficient to clear the Point.

John i. 1. The Evangelist shews first, what the *Word*, *Christ*, was *in himself*, and asserts *he was God*; and next what he was *in and to*
 Verse 3, 4. *the World*. First, he was *the Creator of all Things*; and second, *the Light of Men*; and both *these* he was *in the Beginning*, or early Part of Time to this Creation, four Thousand Years before his coming in the Flesh. As he then began to be the Light of Men, he hath all along continued to be so. As he made the Sun to be the Light of our external World, whether People keep their Eyes open, or shut them against its shining; so is the true Light of the Spirit of Men, whether they open to him or not. This he is by the inward Manifestation of his Spirit in every Man's Conscience.
 Verse 4. "In him *was* Life, and the Life *was* "the Light of Men." This was in the Beginning, and hath been from the Beginning. It is the One living Eternal Word, or energetic Spirit, appearing in both Modes, when truly believed in, and properly received.
 John i. 5. 6. "The Light shineth in Darknesh, "and the Darknesh comprehended it not." "This," saith *S. N. P.* 163, "may more particularly, as some think, refer to the *Jews*." But, why so? Were the *Gentiles* less dark than the *Jews*? Or doth the Term *World* include the *Jews* only, who were but a Handful compared with the *Gentiles*? How does that comport with Verse 10, "He was in the World, "and the World was made by him, and the "World knew him not." Are not the *Gentiles* included

included in the World that was made by him, as well, and as much as the *Jews*? Or, *is he* Rom. iii. 29. *the God of the Jews only, and not of the Gentiles also?* I take the *Darkness* to be the corrupt State of Mankind; *Gentiles* as well as *Jews*.

He says, P. 164, “ The Phrase *coming into the World*, seems plainly to denote a pre-existent State; but neither Scripture, nor Reason, support any such Notion concerning Mankind in general.” I agree with him in the latter Part, but differ from him in the former, i. e. that *coming into the World seems plainly to denote a pre-existent State*, in any other Sense than the Pre-existence of all Men in their Mothers Womb, before they may properly be said to come forth into, or to make Jer. xx. 18 their Appearance in the visible World. I apprehend the Phrase no more denotes any other Pre-existence of Mankind than the *coming of the great Day*, implies the Pre-existence of that Day. Nor do I see, with what Propriety this Expression can be applied to Christ, more than to any one of the Species. For he was always in the World, which was made, John i. 10. and continually subsists by his Power; hence all that can be meant by *his coming thereinto*, is that he assumed a different Manner of Appearance, or Mode of Manifestation in it than he had done before.

7. P. 166. “ Those who did not receive him, and were not born of him, could not therefore be described as *enlightened unto Salvation*.” Those who did not receive him, could never be born of him; for he that is born of him, is both *enlightened* and *quickened* by his Spirit. The Saviour as the Light
of

of the World, dispenseth of his Light to every Man that cometh into the World, to give him a Sight of his captive Condition; this Sight producing that *godly Sorrow which worketh Repentance*, Salvation ensues. So, though the Light of the Saviour ariseth upon all, in order that all may come to Repentance and be saved, yet those who are so attached to their evil Courses, that they love Darknes rather than Light, shut it out from them, and therefore do not come to the saving Knowledge of him, who is the Author of Eternal Salvation *to all that obey him.*

2 Cor. vii.
10.

Heb. v. 9.

If my Opposer intends by the Phrases *savingly enlightened, enlightened unto Salvation*; and such like, that we mean the saving Power is nothing in the Work but a *mere Illuminator*, and that *Illumination is Salvation*; I must tell him, we entertain no such Ideas, for they are void of Truth and Reality. When we speak of the Light's being of a saving Nature we do not intend, that Salvation is effected merely by Light *abstractively* considered, though it is the *Light of Life*. The *Eternal Word* operates both as Light, and as Life. It gives true Discovery and Discrimination, *as Light*; and empowers to live and act suitably, *as Life*. This *Light and Life*, being the *very Nature of the Saviour*, are properly said to be *of a saving Nature*. Men may be so enlightened as to see the Way of Salvation, and yet refuse to walk in it; yea, they may be led into the Way, yet not abide in it. Will their Refusal, or Defection alter the *Nature* of the Light, or prove *it is not saving*? Would any shutting out the Light, be a Proof that it would

would not shine upon me ; or of the Contrary ? Food is not such to him who refuses to eat it ; but is it not Food in its Nature, because he refuses it ? And might it not be Food to him, if he would be wise enough to take it ?

8. " In the Beginning was the *Word*." John i. 1.

This Divine Word had no Beginning. It was no Part of the Creation. All created Things were made by him, and called from Inexistence into Being ; but the *Word* is without Beginning or End of Days. The Word inexpressible by Words, and incomprehensible by Thoughts and Imaginations. The *Orthos Logos*, or *Right Reason*, infinite in Wisdom, Goodness and Power ; from the Beginning issuing forth, and acting in the Work of Creation and Providence, and also from the Time of the Fall, in Mediation and Regeneration.

As Man was the only Part of this lower Creation designed for Immortality, the Favours he then received were answerable to the high Purpose of his Maker in creating him. The creating and conserving Word, immediately became his Illuminator, and Quickener.

" All Things were made by him, and without Verse 3, 4.

" him was not any Thing made that was made.

" In him was Life, and the Life was the Light
" of Men."

After Man's Transgression, and Defection from this Divine Light and Life, this gracious *Word* astonishingly condescended to offer himself to repair the Breach, by determining, in due Time, to take the Nature of Man upon him, and to give it up to excruciating Pains, and the Death of the Cross, as a Propitiation for the Sins of *the whole World*. Hereby he shewed

shewed the Greatness of Divine Love and Mercy to poor helpless Man, and also, by then immediately renewing, and thence-forward continuing, to afford a Manifestation of his Light to Man in his fallen Estate. For,

John i. 10. before his Incarnation, "He was in the World, " and the World was made by him, and the " World knew him not." The Generality, though they felt his inward Convictions, the Reproofs of Instruction, they distinguished them not to be his, but might flatter themselves, they were only the Effects of Tradition early instilled into their Minds; and not having their Habitation in the Light, were become as *Darkness*; yet the Light shined in their *Darkness*, though their *Darkness comprehended it not*. They thought too meanly of this Light, had no just Conception of it, knew it not to be *the Visitation* of the Son of God, and though they were *his own Gentiles* as well as *Jews*, by *Creation*, and *intentional Redemption*, they received him not.* "But as " many as received him, to them gave he " Power to become the Sons of God."

Verse 11,
12.

The Evangelist having spoken of him as the universal, illuminating, effective *Word*, Verse 14, he comes to speak of his Incarnation, saying, "And the *Word* was made *Flesh*, and " dwelt among us." We are not here to understand, that the sovereign Word, or Spirit, was *transubstantiated* into *Flesh*, but that for Man's Redemption, he took the Nature of Man upon him, and appeared amongst Men,
as

* S. N. might tell the Evangelist here, in like Manner as he doth us, that he Attributes not this saving Sonship to the Grace or Gift of God, but to a certain *virtuous Openness* in themselves, which renders their Salvation owing to themselves.

as a Man, and undoubtedly in the Eyes of most seemed not more than Man; but faith his enlightened Follower, “ *and we beheld his Glory,*” (had a Sense of his Divinity, as well as a Sight of his Humanity) “ *the Glory as of the only Begotten of the Father*” (the only One of his own Essence and Eternity) “ *full of Grace and Truth—and of his Fulness*” John i. 16. “ *have all we received, and Grace for Grace.*”

When Persons read, and presume to expound, the Scriptures with School and College Methods uppermost in their Heads, it is no Wonder they mistake them. The inspired Writers observed no such Rules, even those of them who might have a competent Share of Literature; which most of them had not. Learned, or unlearned, the Light and Motion of the Holy Spirit was their Guide; not the Rules of Rhetoric, Logic, or Grammar. Is not the Apostle *John's* Greek as ordinary as *G. Fox's* English; yet who had a deeper Understanding given him in Divine Things than *John*? Not School-learning, but the Light of the Holy Ghost gave them a right Understanding, and the same is requisite to the right Understanding of their Writings. *They spake* 1 Cor. ii. 6 *not the Wisdom of this World*; therefore are not to be understood by its Wisdom; yet nothing is more busy to explain them. They often treat of Things promiscuously; even as our Saviour himself spake, intermixing the internal spiritual Sense with the external, both respecting himself, and the Matters he touched upon. This *John* doth in his first Chapter, sometimes speaking of Christ as the *Word*, which respects his Divinity, sometimes as

P

Man,

Man, or as in the Flesh, and sometimes comprehending both Senses in the same Words. For Want of a right Understanding properly to distinguish them, Men are apt to jumble, and mistake one for another. Hence arise Disagreement, Clashing, and Jangling about the true Sense of Scripture ; and trying it by the *Notions of Systems* they have espoused, instead of trying *them* by the Truth, it is no Wonder there is so much Controversy. The only Way to put an End to it, is for all to come to the Spirit of Truth in their own Hearts, that they may be led into all Truth; which till they do, they never can be.

9. P. 171, S. N. by a Perversion, charges *Barclay* with Perversion. He asserts, "*Paul*" (in *Rom. x. 14, 15*), "is only speaking of the *Israelites*, as the Scope of the Chapter demonstrates." This appears to me a Mistake. For though the Apostle had been speaking particularly of them in divers of the preceding Verses, in these he manifestly includes both *Jews* and *Gentiles*. His Words are, "There is no Difference between the Jew and the Greek ; for the same Lord over all, is rich unto all that call upon him. For, whosoever shall call upon the Name of the Lord, shall be saved. How then shall *they* call on him in whom they have not believed?" &c. The Pronoun *they* hath evidently an equal Reference to both *Jews* and *Gentiles* ; as the preceding *Context* demonstrates.

Rom. x.
12, 13, 14.

Verse 18.

Accepting these Words, "their Sound went into all the Earth, and their Words unto the Ends of the World," as intended *only* of the Preaching of the Apostles, and their Companions

Companions in Travel, and as being *literally* true when *Paul* wrote his Epistle to the *Romans*, S. N. P. 172, asserts, “ It is *most likely*, “ it was by them, and their Adherents, propagated throughout the greatest Part of the “ then habitable World.” Upon which I ask, What Probability is there, that any of them ever preached the Gospel in *China*, *Persia*, *Tartary*, *India*, *Russia*, *America*, the numerous oriental and occidental Islands, or, set legendary Tales aside, in *Britain*, or in short, *throughout the far greatest Part* of the then habitable World? The Assertion appears grounded upon a vulgar Error, though too current, and what is built upon it, is improbable Conjecture.

10. P. 175, &c. S. N. having cited 1 Cor. iii. 18, and xii. 7, saith, “ These and such “ like Passages are ascribed indiscriminately to “ Mankind universally, and every individual “ Man is declared *to be the Temple of God*, and “ *to have a Manifestation of the Spirit, to profit “ withal.*” That the Manifestation of the Spirit is given to *every Man to profit withal*, we verily believe, and do not only depend upon this particular Text for it. We also believe, that if every Man seeketh rightly to profit with it, every Man *may* so grow in Grace as in Time *to become the Temple of God*. But that every Man so profits with it, as really to become God’s Temple, we no more believe than our Accuser.

Great Part of what follows, and indeed a large Portion of his Volume, is made up of Repetitions from his Letter, with additional Suppositions, which are untruly fathered upon

us; and which lay scattered in the confuted Publications of *Hicks, Faldo, Bugg, Lesly, Pickworth*, and other party Writers in the last Century. These have become as Magazines of Sophistry and Abuse, to furnish their warm Successors in Opposition, who to this Day keep retailing them out against us.

11. P. 180. Our Examiner *presumes entirely to refute every Thing* Barclay's *Defender* has advanced upon Luke xvii. 20, 21. The Passage is, "The Kingdom of God cometh not with Observation, neither shall they say, lo here, or lo there; for behold the Kingdom of God is *within you*." To suit his Purpose, S. N. chose to read these last Words, *is among you*. To this I replied, Observations, P. 74, "This reading destroys the Antithesis evidently intended by our Saviour, who was here answering a Question put to him by the *Pharisees*, concerning the coming of an *outward* Kingdom, by informing them, that the Kingdom of God is an *inward* Kingdom; and shewing the Difference between an *outward and visible Form*, which Men are capable to point out by their lo here, and lo there, and his own internal spiritual Dominion."

To accomplish my entire Refutation, he takes the Word *entos*, out of the original Greek, the proper Signification of which is *within*, as it stands in our Translation. It is also rendered in *Latin intus* by *Beza*, and *intra* by *Castalio*, both which signify *within*. Instead of this my Opponent substitutes *en*, which is usually rendered *in* or *among*. By the like Practice the Scripture may be made to

to teach any Doctrine whatsoever. But to common Understandings, the taking away an original Word from the Text, and putting another in its Place different in Signification, is a direct *Falsification* of Scripture; which is the more notorious, as there does not appear to be any various Reading in the *Greek* Text to afford a Pretence for it.* The Cause of Truth stands in Need of no such Artifices; nor can that System be according to Truth, which is obliged to Falseness for its Support.

When a Writer, who professes so high an Esteem for the Holy Scriptures, takes such unwarrantable Freedoms with them, as openly to falsify them to serve his Purpose; his Efforts, instead of accomplishing the Refutation of others, must terminate in Self-confusion. For this, I refer to P. 239, where he vents himself in these opprobrious Terms, “ To adopt a
“ religious Scheme which is contrary to them,” (the Scriptures) “ though we may borrow the
“ Phraseology and Terms of Scripture to
“ express it, must be *impious daring Insolence,*
“ *and atrocious Rebellion* against the Divine
“ Government. Were the most dreadful Curses
“ pronounced, by the Spirit, upon “ any
“ who shall add to, or diminish from the
“ Prophecy of one Book.” *Rev.* xxii. 18,
“ 19. “ How unspeakably deplorable must
“ their Doom be, if they die without an Al-
“ teration of Mind, who pervert the main
“ Sense of the whole New Testament, and
“ introduce another Gospel.” If this heavy
Charge

* See the *Greek Testament*, printed at *Oxford*, 1765; to which are added various Readings, collated from above one Hundred Manuscripts, and from the ancient Versions.

• See also *Mill's Greek Testament*.

Charge and Denunciation belong to those who *add to, diminish from, or pervert the Sense of Scripture*, it behoves our Opponent to look to himself; for he appears to be notoriously guilty.

Col. i. 27. Page 184. He teaches, that the Apostolic Expression, *Christ in you the Hope of Glory*, only intends, “ that Christ should be freely proclaimed among the *Gentiles*, to give them the “ Hope of eternal Glory.” Which is very much like asserting, that the Proclamation concerning Christ without them, is Christ in them, or at least, all that is meant by it. But presently after, he acknowledges the Truth in Part, where he says, —“ Christ no doubt, “ *dwelt and reigned in their Hearts, by his Spirit*, “ through its purifying Influence.” He afterwards expresses an Apprehension that *I cannot think Paul meant, Christ so dwelt in the Hearts of all Mankind universally*. Certainly I cannot; but at the same Time I must think, he appeared by his Spirit in the Minds of all, either as a Comforter, a Purifier, or a Convictor and Reprover, in order that they might believe in, and obey him under this Appearance, through which they would find him to become the Hope of Glory in them.

In Matters of such high Concern as relate to our eternal State, it is incumbent upon all, to be more cautious than confident about *the Exclusion of their Fellow-creatures from the Grace and Salvation of God*; lest by asserting the Non-existence of that Experience in others, themselves have not yet known, they become of those to whom our Saviour declares, “ Ye “ shut up the Kingdom of Heaven against “ Men;

“ Men ; for ye neither go in yourselves, neither
 “ suffer ye them that are entering, to go in.”

12. If any ask, What is the Kingdom of Heaven, or of God ? I answer ; Notwithstanding he is the Almighty Sovereign of the Universe, yet that is more peculiarly styled *his Kingdom*, wherein he so completely governs as to be always cheerfully and perfectly obeyed ; where he is the sole Mover of all that is done, where he is glorified in all that is done, and where he communicates of his Glory and Felicity without Mixture. This Kingdom can neither be entered, nor at all seen into by Man, but through the New-birth of the Holy Spirit, whereby the Soul experienceth a being born into it ; a *being delivered from the Power of Darknefs, and translated into the Kingdom of the dear Son of God.* John iii. Col. i. 13. Hereby alone the Spirit of Man enters it, and through Faithfulness, is enabled to make Advances therein whilst in the Body. This Kingdom stands not in Locality, not in any *here*, or *there* ; therefore it is in vain to direct it by *lo here*, or *lo there*. It stands in an Infinite and Heavenly Spirit, Life, and Nature, wherein nothing impure can live or enter. It is the internal Dominion, or ruling Power of the Holy Ghost in Men and Angels ; that *pure Influence* so beautifully and sublimely described in *Wisdom vii. flowing from the Glory of the Almighty, which in all Ages entering into Holy Souls, maketh them Friends of God, and Prophets.* In fine, this Kingdom of God, is the Dominion of the Light and Life of the Spirit of God. Whoever lives under the sensible Influence and Government of it, lives in this Kingdom.

Kingdom. This is the Kingdom of the Saints militant on Earth, and of the Saints triumphant in Heaven, it being experienced by the Sanctified in Christ Jesus, in Part whilst in this World, and enjoyed in its Fulness in the World to come.

What follows is chiefly a Repetition of what our Opponent published before in his Letter, the Tenour of which is already obviated in divers Parts of this Work, and therefore I shall now take my Leave of him, passing by Abundance of his Illiberalties, and sincerely wishing, that himself, and all Men, may come really *to know* the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom he hath sent, that they may experience Life eternal.

John xvii.
3.

F I N I S.



